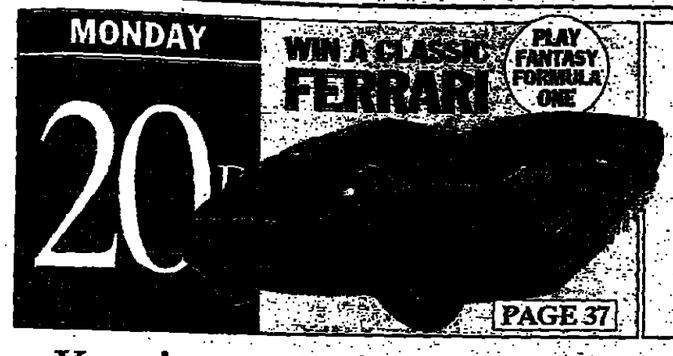
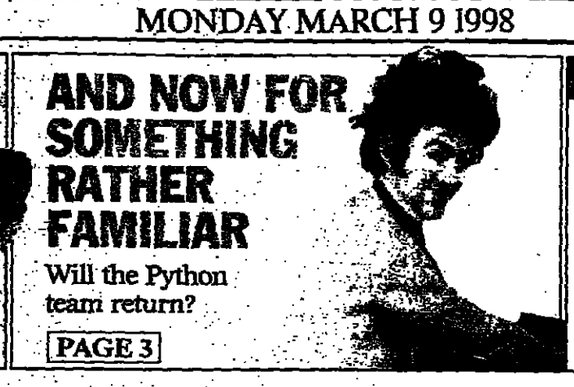
THE TIMES

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Kensington Palace may house art

Royal Family to lose place in the Lords

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PRINCE WILLIAM will be the first heir to the throne not to win an automatic seat in the House of Lords under reforms being considered by the Government.

The idea of removing the royal presence from the Upper House has emerged as speculation is rife about the "modernisation" of the monarchy, with fewer "royal highnesses" and an end to bowing and curtseying. Some members of the Royal Family are even pressing for Kensington Palace — the former home of Diana, Princess of Wales — to be turned into a museum to house the 7,000-work royal art collection.

These and other reforms are being considered by the Way Ahead Group of senior members of the Royal Family and their advisers, but the suggestion that the family should lose its representation in the House of Lords has come from the Cabinet committee drawing up plans to abolish hereditary peerages. Buckingham Palace would not oppose the idea.

The option most widely favoured by the committee is to allow the four peers of the blood royal — the Prince of Wales and the Dukes of York, Gloucester and Kent — to continue to sit in the Lords without voting rights, but to withdraw the privilege from their successors.

A government source said that there had been detailed consideration of the position of the royal members. "We are still at an early stage, but removing the automatic right [to sit in the Lords] would skip to the next generation. When their titles are passed on, the right will not be passed on to their heirs."

The present members' would, however, lose their right to vote along with other hereditary peers as the first part of what is expected to be a two-stage reform of the Lords. Ministers have not yet decided how the chamber will be constituted when the reform is complete, but they are determined to have reached a conclusion before the hereditary peers are stripped of their powers.

One option is for two thirds of the Upper House to be directly elected with members serving for seven years; the other third would be appointed by an all-party commission.

Downing Street declined to comment on reports that Tony Blair had decided to give up his right to create life peers, which is one of the biggest demonstrations of prime ministerial patronage.

Legislation to abolish hereditary peers is expected next year. At the moment the Tories have 322, Labour 17 and the Liberal Democrats 24.

But the constitutional historian Lord Blake said: "Governments proceed with such major constitutional changes at their peril. The royal dukes, tho are first creation, have always had a right to sit in the House of Lords. The effectiveness of these changes will depend on the alternative."

The programme to modernise the monarchy is also fraught with sensitivity — especially the fate of Kensington Palace, which is home to Princess Margaret, the Dukes and Duchesses of Gloucester and Kent, and Prine and Princess Michael of Kent.

The issue surfaced at a recent meeting of the Way Ahead Group, but the Duke of Edinburgh — who is resisting what he regards as a tidal wave of change — brought the brief discussion to a close without any resolution.

Other ideas being considered include changes to the tradition of the Lord Lieutenants, who are the Queen's representatives in each county. By tradition they are retired military officers, but as they retire they will be replaced by figures from business and the arts with an emphasis on more women and members of the ethnic minorities.

The state opening of Parliament could also be changed to remove some of the pomp and ceremony. There had been a suggestion that it should be held only after a general election, but the Queen feels that the annual occasion is her most important official duty of the year, underlining the link between the Crown, Parliament and people. One idea being canvassed, however, is

Continued on page 2, col 5

Leading article, page 23



MLADEN ANTONOV / EPA

THOUSANDS of Albanian women wave sheets of white paper during a largely silent rally in front of the American Information Centre in Pristina yesterday. The papers symbolised the lack of rights of the Albanian majority in the south Serbian province of Kosovo where at least 20 people have been killed by Serb security forces during the past week (Tom Walker writes).

Silent demo against Serbs

The demonstrators were pleading with Washington to intervene in the Kosovo crisis. Some of the women in the front ranks shouted "Do something or leave" to Americans in the centre, the only official Western government presence in Kosovo.

The protest lasted an hour before the women dispersed in front of the hostile gaze of riot police.

Meanwhile Ministers from Europe, the United States and Russia are to gather in London today for a conference on the crisis. They will seek ways to bring pressure to bear on Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian President, to stop repression in the region.

Hunt for 'rebels', Page 11

Hundreds evacuated in Waco car bomb siege

Waco, Texas: A lone gunman with explosives smashed his way into a government agency for ex-servicemen here yesterday and held off police in a siege as hundreds of residents were evacuated.

The police said that the man, 61, drove his car through a gate at the Veterans Administration building. He was carrying a high-powered rifle, had a list of demands and was negotiating with police.

Police officers, the FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) agents sealed off the area around the building and evacuated hundreds of residents and churchgoers while they opened negotiations with the suspect. Local media reports said that the police had told residents they believed the suspect's car, which was parked by the building, was packed with explosives.

Five years ago, David Koresh, the Branch Davidian cult leader, and about 80 of his followers died in flames after a botched FBI raid on their Waco compound at the end of a 51-day siege.

ATF agents had first stormed the Branch Davidians' compound on February 28, 1993, in an attempt to arrest Koresh on weapons charges. Four agents and six Davidians were killed in a gunfight and the siege began. On April 19, tanks broke through an outer wall and agents threw tear gas inside to flush the Davidians out. A fire started and most of those inside were killed.

The Waco episode became a rallying point for the right-wing militia movement and it was on the second anniversary of the fire that Timothy McVeigh, an ex-serviceman, used a lorry bomb to blow apart a federal government building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people. *(Reuters)*

BSE inquiry may call ministers

More than 300 ministers, former ministers and civil servants have been warned that they may be required to give evidence at the public inquiry into "mad cow" disease, which opens today. The inquiry, which could cost £10 million, is headed by Lord Justice Phillips. Page 6

My Lai medals

Thirty years after the My Lai massacre, three Americans who turned their guns on fellow soldiers in order to save the lives of Vietnamese civilians have received recognition as heroes. Page 15

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BUSINESS 47-50, 52
MIND & MATTER 17
LAW REPORT 45

Voting reforms could be in place by next election

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

BRITAIN could have a new electoral system in time for the next general election after an important shift in attitudes in the Labour leadership.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has become the latest and most significant senior figure to indicate that he would be prepared to accept a change from the first past the post formula on which Westminster elections have always been based.

Mr Straw said in an interview with *The Times* that he was "perfectly relaxed" about the alternative vote system for which there is growing support in the Labour Party.

Mr Straw indicated that he could accept the system because it retained the link between MPs and their constituencies, which he said was the foundation of British democracy. Mr Straw's approach is regarded as highly significant because at the end of last year he set up a commission, headed by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, which later this year is due to recommend a new voting system for British elections.

After consideration by the Cabinet a proposal will be put to a referendum in 1999 and, provided that boundary changes are not required, could be in place for the next election in 2001 or 2002. Mr Straw's readiness to go along with the alternative vote system was described as a breakthrough by Labour's pro-reformers yesterday.

Under the formula, which is used in New Zealand, voters in a constituency rank their preferences in the order of one, two and three. Anyone reaching 50 per cent is elected but if the candidates fail to reach that threshhold the third preference votes are redistributed between the two leading candidates.

☐ In the last election just under half of MPs, 313, failed to get 50 per cent of the vote and so would have been affected under AV (Helen Rumbelow writes).

This number is probably lower than in recent elections because the large anti-Conservative swing gave Labour winners a remarkably high proportion of the vote.

Conservatives in previously safe seats would have been the most affected, with major players such as Teresa Gorman in Billericay winning with just 39.8 per cent.

This was just points ahead of her Labour opponent's 37.3 per cent. In this case the preferences of the 15.8 per cent voting Liberal Democrat could have gone to Labour.

Likewise Michael Howard in Folkestone and Hythe got 39 per cent of the vote, and William Hague had only 48.9 per cent in Richmond.

But election night could have lost one of its most dramatic moments in the case of Michael Portillo, who narrowly lost his Enfield Southgate seat with 41.1 per cent to Stephen Twigg's 44.2 per cent. Under AV he would have had the opportunity to claw his way back into the Commons.

Peter Riddell, page 22

Prescott faces cash donation inquiry

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN PRESCOTT faces a Commons investigation after allegedly breaking the rules over a £28,000 political donation which he failed to register.

The Deputy Prime Minister could be called before the Standards and Privileges Committee to answer questions on the money for political research in 1996 from the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust, which he paid into a blind trust.

Mr Prescott was also forced on the defensive yesterday over the involvement of his son, John, in a property deal involving the sale of council houses at large discounts. The Deputy Prime Minister, who is also the Environment and Transport Secretary, announced that he had asked a senior civil servant to investigate the deal.

The £27,750 from the Rowntree Trust, which Mr Prescott had sought, was to help to fund a commission on regional development. The money was transferred into the John Prescott Campaign/Research Trust, a blind trust which funded his private office.

Under Parliament's rules beneficiaries of blind trusts should not know the identity of any donors to avoid suggestion of cash for favours.

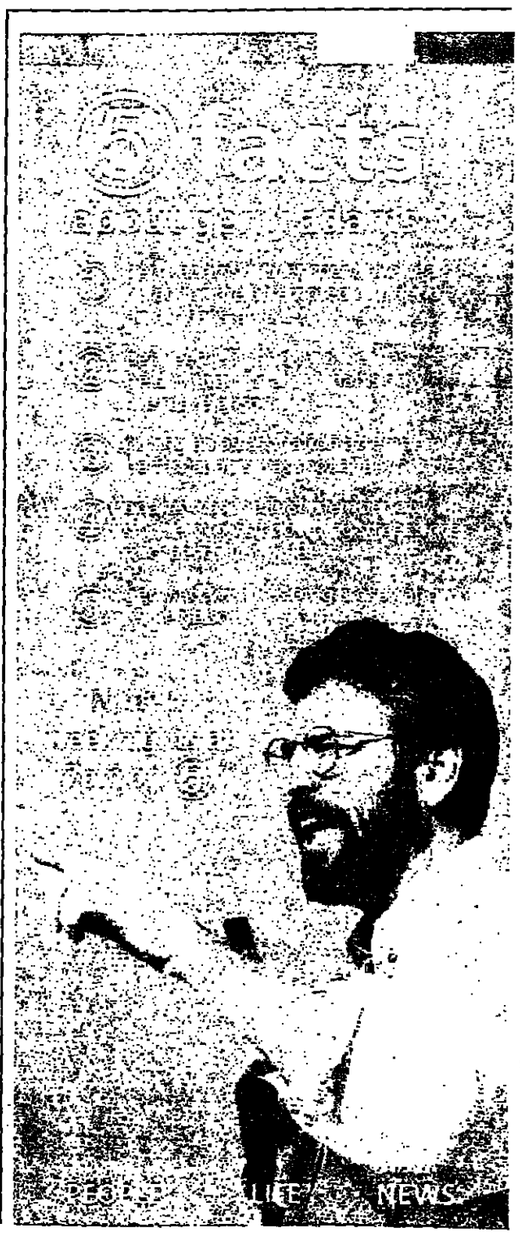
Mr Prescott, having moved the money into his office fund, could have breached the rules of confidentiality. The Tories last night challenged him to disclose whether he knew the names of any other donors to the blind trust.

Sir Gordon Downey, the parliamentary watchdog, will decide whether he should appear before the Standards and Privileges Committee. MPs who break the rules on disclosure can be suspended from the Commons.

The Tories will today refer the donation to the committee. A member of the committee said: "The rules are strict. A beneficiary should not put a donation into his own blind trust, which is supposed to be anonymous." The prospect of

Continued on page 2, col 1

Property deal, page 2



LIFE NEWS

Thousands grounded by Irish airline strike

BY AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of passengers were stranded at Dublin airport yesterday after Aer Lingus cancelled all flights because their employees refused to cross trade union pickets erected in support of a rival airline.

Aer Lingus cancelled 80 flights to and from Dublin, leaving 8,000 people stranded at airports around the world. The company was last night uncertain whether it would be operating today.

Cabin crews and ground staff refused to work yesterday after Siptu, the largest trade union in Ireland, set up pickets on roads to the airport. The pickets were in support of 39 Ryanair baggage handlers on strike for the past nine weeks over union recognition, pay and working conditions.

The airport, one of the fastest-growing in Europe, closed completely at lunchtime on Saturday as fire and security crews and check-in clerks went on strike in support of the 39 men. The airport reopened yesterday morning only after Aer Rianta, the airport management company, found an alternative fire service crew.

There were angry scenes in the departure area yesterday as travellers fought with Aer Lingus staff over alternative arrangements. In Manchester, Aer Lingus passengers were transported to Holyhead and taken to Ireland by ferry. At Heathrow, the company tried to find seats for passengers with other airlines.

Aer Lingus was bitter yesterday that it was made to suffer as a result of the strike at Ryanair, which operates a no-frills service and is its biggest rival. Ryanair staff were crossing the picket line and the company was flying to and from Dublin, although with long delays.

Michael O'Leary, Ryanair's chief executive, who last year received a £17 million bonus, said a "state of anarchy" prevailed at the airport and secured a High Court injunction to prevent any further interference. He has refused to attend the Labour Court to try to settle the dispute.

Prescott queries son's property deal

Sale of cheap council houses to Hull developers will be audited, write **Andrew Pierce** and **Nicholas Watt**

JOHN PRESCOTT yesterday instructed his Permanent Secretary to audit a disputed property deal in his Hull constituency which will financially benefit his son.

The deal involved the heavily discounted sale of former council houses to Wyke Property Services. Mr Prescott's 34-year-old-son, John, a former hairdresser, is a director and shareholder of the company.

The 20 homes, which were worth between £20,000 to £30,000, were sold for as little as £5,000 each. The sale, which was bitterly criticised in Hull, was rubber-stamped by officials at the Department of Environment.

The department said yesterday that Mr Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister who is Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, had not known about the transaction.

In a highly unusual move yesterday Mr Prescott ordered Andrew Turnbull, the Permanent Secretary at the department, to conduct an audit into the property sale.

"I am absolutely sure there is nothing wrong. No one's suggesting that anything improper was done here. But, because I am extremely concerned about these matters, I have now told my Permanent Secretary today to conduct an audit of this deal," Mr Prescott said on BBC Radio 4's *The World this Weekend*.



Prescott: said son had been made a scapegoat

The investigation will begin immediately. Mr Prescott said his son was being made a scapegoat. "It does annoy me, after 28 years in politics, that you can get these stories thrown up by the press and going for my son because his name happens to be Prescott when none of them even suggests anything improper has been done at all."

The properties were owned by North Hull Housing Action Trust which was set up by the Government to revive rundown council estates. It was agreed that private developers would be excluded to ensure that all the money was spent on improving the housing stock.

Last year the trust deemed 20 houses surplus to requirements and they were put out to tender. They had been partially renovated with public money. Only two bids were received. One of them was for £1 a house.

Simon Cutting, 39, the principal shareholder in Wyke Developments, bought them for £108,000 amid claims from critics of the scheme that the value was closer to £500,000.

Mr Prescott junior, who is a salaried contracts manager at the company, said: "Everything is on public record. Nothing has been hidden. I'm just extremely upset as his son about these stories, because I hold my father in the highest regard. I would never compromise my father. He wasn't aware of the deal and I've stood well back initially from any discussions — that's public record.

"For obvious reasons, I wasn't involved — council houses in Hull will cause controversy. The process was handled by other members of the company. I acted totally properly and so has the company." He said that he had no power over the deal. "I'm an employee. I can't go to my boss and say: don't buy these. I have never discussed this with my father."

Mr Prescott junior describes himself as a property developer in Wyke's files at Companies House and has a 20 per cent stake in the company.

Mr Cutting, the principal shareholder, is a prominent Hull businessman. Mr Cutting, 39, buys up houses in deprived areas — many of which have been repossessed — renovates them and then rents them to people on benefit via the Sanctuary Housing Association.

Mr Cutting said he never knows the status of houses when he buys them, although "probably a lot" had been repossessed. He also attempted to distance Mr Prescott junior by saying that he bought the properties in his name and only sold them to Wyke after renovation.

A bleak Victorian terrace in the rundown Summergangs area of Hull, close to the docks, provides a typical example of how the business works. A two-storey house at 10 Wilton Avenue was bought by Mr Cutting from the Halifax in September for £10,250. Neighbours said that the house had been repossessed from the previous occupant a few weeks earlier. Mr Cutting spent £9,511.81 renovating the house, and sold it to Wyke for £22,500. The company let it through the Sanctuary Trust, which accommodates people in the social housing sector. Wyke receives £54 a week rent, which comes to £2,828.80 per year. The mortgage costs £2,320 annually, which leaves £500 a year for repairs. Mr Cutting said that he and Mr Prescott were not making "fat profits" from the house. The investment in the house was designed to provide Wyke's shareholders with an income "20 years down the line".

LES GIBSON



John Prescott at his parents' home yesterday: he said nothing had been hidden about the sale of council houses in Hull, below, to the property firm in which he has shares



Trust inquiry

Continued from page 1

an inquiry is an embarrassment to the Labour leadership as it was Mr Prescott who led the charge against Tory sleaze in the last Parliament.

Mr Prescott, however, said he had acted "quite properly". He told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend* that he had registered the first instalment of money from the trust in 1995."Then I established an office trust fund under the guidance of Parliamentary Standards Commissioner, Sir Gordon Downey.

"That [donation] was then fed into that fund as with any other contribution or television payments or articles that funded my office and that commission. It was then not required to register, as I understand it, and that's what happened."

He added that when the commission, headed by Bruce Millan, a former EU commissioner reported, it made clear where the money had come from to fund its work. "And the Rowntree Trust will always publish where it gives its money. There was never any possibility of there being a secret about this matter."

The Tories were not satisfied with the explanation. Iain Duncan-Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, said that the Commons would decide if there had been a breach.

"This gift should have been registered. The money was paid into a blind trust. Beneficiaries of blind trusts are not supposed to know the source of the funds. How many other donors did John Prescott know about?", he demanded.

The Tories will also step up the pressure on Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, to wind up a blind trust which pays for a researcher in her Commons constituency office.

"We will wait until the result of Lord Neill's inquiry" [into party funding], said a spokesman for Mrs Beckett's office last night.

United Colours of Benetton

apologises for the errors relating to Prof. Naomi Chazan on page 45 of the Spring /Summer 1998 Catalogue, distributed with today's edition of *The Times* and for any personal distress this may have caused her.The correct data is:Naomi Chazan, 51 years old, Israeli, Member of Knesset - Meretz Deputy Speaker of the Knesset

Adams's 'wish-list' attacked as exclusion from talks ends

BY MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

GERRY ADAMS, the Sinn Fein president, was accused of presenting a "republican wish-list" yesterday after he set out "minimum requirements" for a deal that he said could lead towards a united Ireland.

Those requirements included not only immediate measures such as the release of all "political" prisoners, the disbandment of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Army's withdrawal to barracks, but also new all-Ireland arrangements that go far beyond what Unionists and loyalists would accept.

Describing the proposals as a "republican wish-list", David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, said Sinn Fein had no interest in serious negotiation. Its goal was either to prevent an agreement, or to destroy it.

In an article in Dublin's *Ireland on Sunday* newspaper, Mr Adams admitted a united Ireland was "unlikely to be achieved by May", but said Sinn Fein would "view any agreement in this phase as being part of a transitional process to Irish unity and independence".

Some commentators believed Mr Adams's list was an attempt to counter Unionist pressure on London and Dublin. His article also contained an oblique warning that "the situation could slip back into all-out conflict". Sinn Fein's 17-day suspension from the talks ends this morning, but Mr Adams will not return before he has met Tony Blair, possibly on Thursday.

AMERICANS LINE UP FOR DUBLIN

PROMINENT Irish-Americans have begun jostling to replace Jean Kennedy Smith as America's next Ambassador in Dublin. She is expected to leave the post this summer.

Forty congressmen and four senators have signed a letter promoting a lobbyist, Paul Quinn, 63. Others who have expressed an interest are Richard Riley, the Education Secretary and former South Carolina Governor; Bruce Morrison, the former congressman from Connecticut and regular visitor to Northern Ireland who helped to bring about the 1994 IRA ceasefire; and Tom Donahue, a former trade union leader.

Lords reform

Continued from page 1

for the Queen to dispense with the state regalia and abandon the horse drawn coach in favour of arriving by car.

The Palace has long accepted the need for a change of style, but the question is at what speed it should proceed.

Three factors have propelled the Queen to modest action. The first is a Blair Government intent on creating a "people's monarchy", although it is unwilling to exert direct pressure on the Palace. The second is the wave of public dissatisfaction at the present monarchical style after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. And the third is a series of "focus group" discussions held with members of the public by MORI, the polling organisation, which reinforced the message of a monarchy felt to be too distant and with too many unnecessary trappings. The MORI research showed that the monarchy was seen as a dated irrelevance to large numbers of people under the age of 45.

An end to bowing and courtseying has already been heralded by the Queen herself — her officials have made clear to organisations that she cannot stand "oilers, creeps or sycophants"; a restricted list of "royal highnesses" is likely, and the Union Flag flew at full mast over Buckingham Palace in the Queen's absence at the weekend as another sign of the new approach.

The Queen is, however, cautious about further reforms: Her age and long reign dictate that she is unlikely to be happy with major changes in her lifetime. But the arch traditionalist of the royal family is Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. Modernisation remains anathema to her.

Leading article, page 23

NEWS IN BRIEF

German roofers sue over Dome job loss

The German roofing company whose £6 million contract to cover the Millennium Dome with PVC was suddenly ended in August last year is to sue the New Millennium Experience Company, the public body which is running the Greenwich show, for £2.3 million. The claim is on top of a court action for £1.2 million by Koch Highter, which roofed the King Fahd International Stadium in Saudi Arabia and the Channel Tunnel rail terminal in London.

The work on the Dome was awarded instead to their main rivals Birdair, a firm in Amherst, New York, which had already roofed the world's largest existing dome, in Atlanta, Georgia. Birdair will get £14 million for a Teflon-coated cover. The decision to ditch the German company was publicly defended on the grounds that the Teflon tent would last 25 years instead of ten years.

Concern over candidates

Efforts by the Conservatives to secure more women candidates for the European Parliament have failed: only 8 per cent of those on the candidates list for next year's elections are female. Currently, there are only two women Tory MEPs. Senior figures in the party are now so concerned that they are calling for positive discrimination. Archie Norman, a Tory vice-chairman, advocates quotas for women in selection lists, but this has been strongly opposed.

Labour gay campaign

A Parliamentary lesbian and homosexual equality group is being set up by Labour MPs to lobby for changes in the law, including the reduction of the age of consent to 16. The group, which has the tacit support of Home Office ministers, will press for the ban on homosexuals in the armed forces to be lifted and for an end to discrimination in employment and housing. Transsexual rights may also come under its aegis.

Royal bodyguard leaves

The Queen's bodyguard is to leave the post after 15 years. Superintendent Peter Prentice has been promoted to manager of the royal protection section of Scotland Yard's Royalty and Diplomatic Protection Department. The existing manager, Superintendent David Davies, is to retire. Mr Prentice, previously the Duke of York's bodyguard, has travelled with the Queen on most of her public appearances, including overseas tours.

Talks on Independent

Talks on a deal to give Tony O'Reilly's Irish Independent Group control of *The Independent* will resume tomorrow. Under the deal, Mr O'Reilly's group, which currently holds 46 per cent of Newspaper Publishing, the company that owns *The Independent* and *The Independent on Sunday*, would buy the rest of the company. At the moment the Mirror group owns 46 per cent and there are other minority shareholders. South Africa experience, page 16

Digital TV by Christmas

Six electrical manufacturers have signed up to make devices which enable existing televisions to receive digital terrestrial broadcasts. The set-top boxes should be in the shops before Christmas. Grundig, Pace, Philips, Nokia, Sony and Toshiba are expected to sell them for about £200. They will give viewers immediate access to 15 channels of free television from the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5, with up to 15 more on subscription.

King-size price for Kong

One of only four known copies of a 1933 poster for the film *King Kong* is expected to fetch up to £50,000 at auction. The poster, right, which shows the giant ape astride the Empire State Building in New York clutching a screaming Fay Wray in one hand and a crushed airplane in the other, is to be sold by Christie's, South Kensington, today. It is part of a sale which also features the largest collection of James Bond posters ever to appear at auction, and the only known "door panels" — especially rare as they were displayed only at cinemas where a film was due to premiere. Among them is *Goldfinger*, which could fetch up to £5,000.



Plug pulled on buses

The pioneering battery-powered bus service in Oxford is being withdrawn because the county council can no longer afford to subsidise it. The electric service, which ferried 400 people daily between Oxford railway station and the university's science area, ends this month. Four buses, supplied by Southern Electric and operated by Stagecoach, went into service in 1993. The service had attracted interest from as far afield as California and Western Australia.

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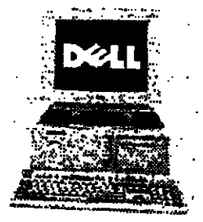
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A comeback for not quite the full Monty

Giles Whittell reports from Aspen as the Python circus prepares to go flying again



GARY CASKEY/REUTERS

No such thing as an ex-Python: Terry Jones, John Cleese, Eric Idle with the urn, Terry Gilliam and Michael Palin are reunited. Below, how the full team looked in 1969



FIVE middle-aged men and an urn of ashes yesterday offered hope of a big new showbusiness comeback. Monty Python's Flying Circus is taking off again.

The ashes supposedly belonged to Graham Chapman, the wildest Python, who died in 1989 but was brought along when the team reunited in public for the first time in 18 years at a comedy festival at the weekend. Solemnly placed on an ornate chair, the urn was frequently told to be quiet by Michael Palin, then knocked over by Terry Gilliam. The contents were vacuumed up by a stagehand.

Their extraordinary reception at a festival in Aspen, Colorado, where they had top billing while the entire cast of *Cheers* applauded from the fifth row, encouraged the surviving members to go ahead with an idea for a 30th anniversary tour of Britain and America next year. Palin, 54, said: "It would be crazy not to try to take advantage of the groundswell of support we have seen. Coming here has concentrated our minds on the fact that there is still an audience."

John Cleese, 58, Eric Idle, 54, Terry Jones, 56, Terry Gilliam, 58, and Palin were driven to the Wheeler Opera House in a fleet of stretch limousines, and reminisced to a packed house in Aspen for two hours, with screenings of the Lumberjack song and the Fish-Slapping Dance, and a soulful rendition of *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life* from the film *The Life of Brian*.

Their last live performance was at the Hollywood Bowl. Idle said yesterday: "I had an idea for a film last year and everyone individually said 'Yes', but then we all got together in England and the first thing John said was, 'There's no way I'm doing another film.'" Cleese said: "The trouble with a film is that we would have to get together for six to eight months to write it." A tour could last eight to ten weeks.

Fans and promoters have long since talked up a Monty Python comeback as comedy's answer to the resurgent Rolling Stones. It remains an uncertain proposition, though. Idle warned that Cleese "is the kind of guy who changes his mind". Cleese, who was moving with a slight limp, was heard to rule out a reprise of his energetic turn as Minister of Silly Walks.

Asked if current affairs would be used for new material topical, Palin replied: "We were never topical. We always tried to be surreal."

All five men are still best-known in America as Pythons. Their television revues, which started in 1969, took hold on college campuses in the early 1970s and remain cult favourites. They are clearly ready to perform. Their weekend tribute began with six people trooping on to the stage. When moderator Robert Klein asked how the group formed, a young man began to answer the question, until the real Pythons chased him off stage with a hail of flying fruit.

Cleese told how the initial reaction to their humour had been lukewarm. An audience selected by the BBC to watch the first show was made up of old-age pensioners, "and they thought they were going to see a circus", Idle said. The BBC had decided that the show must have circus in its title, and the cast members couldn't agree on anything else, so they went along.

They threw in Monty Python as an afterthought, because it sounded like a really bad theatrical agent. Their innovation stemmed from the experience of the members, who "had done just enough comedy to be fed up with all the comic conventions of the time".

They avoided the latest news because "by the time we started, satire had been hammered, absolutely flogged". Palin said: "We wanted a show where you didn't know what was going to happen."

There were many taboos in the 1960s that no one really cared about, so there was little risk in breaking them, Cleese said. He added that it was always a pleasure to be around Chapman, his writing partner, because "he just adored bad taste". Palin and Jones wrote together. Cleese occasionally tried to get the group to switch partners, but with little luck. They "fought like cats and dogs about the writing because we cared so much about it".

He added: "We can compromise more easily now because we enjoy life more."

Now for something completely different

John Cleese secured his position in the pantheon of Britain's all-time great comic actors with *Fawlty Towers*. He played further chaotic characters in *Clockwise* and *A Fish Called Wanda* and *Fierce Creatures*, made a fortune from video training films and wrote books with his psychotherapist. He was reported to have made £305,000 for four days' work providing the voice of a gorilla for Disney's *George and the Jungle*.

Michael Palin has appeared in fellow Pythons' films — *Brazil*, *A Fish Called Wanda* but now is the doyen of television travellers with programmes such as *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Pole to Pole* and *Full Circle*. The spin-off books have sold hundreds of thousands and he also wrote the bestselling novel *Hemingway's Chair*.

Terry Jones's film work consists of various combinations of directing, acting and writing. He did all three on *Eric the Viking* and *Wind in the Willows* and also directed *Personal Services*. Among his books is a serious academic work, *Chaucer's Knight*.

Eric Idle has appeared in a mixed bag of films, with *Nuns on the Run* and *Caspar, the Friendly Ghost* the most successful. Appeared on *Top of the Pops* when *Always Look on the Bright Side* reached No 1.

Terry Gilliam, the cartoonist, co-directed *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* with Terry Jones and built a career as a serious film director, with *Time Bandits*, *12 Monkeys* and *Brazil*.

Graham Chapman's subsequent workwas often overshadowed by stories about his private life. He was homosexual and adopted a son who became his manager. After fighting a long, and eventually successful, battle against alcoholism, he died, aged 48, of cancer in 1989.

No help at hand for children who feel they are left behind

By John O'Leary

PLANS for teachers to be given special training so that they can show left-handed children how to write have been abandoned.

Experts claim that tens of thousands of left-handed children struggle to learn to write because teachers do not recognise their problems. Many write awkwardly for the rest of their lives for the want of instruction lasting a matter of minutes.

Campaigners for the 10 per cent of children who are left-handed thought they had a commitment from the government advisers, the Teacher Training Agency, to include a reference to the issue in training guidelines later this month. Special needs teachers were to be required to master simple instruction methods.

Mark Stewart, who has spearheaded a campaign for the Left-handed Club, said the approach was suggested by Anthea Millett, the agency's chief executive. But it had now confirmed there would be no specific reference to left-handedness.

Mr Stewart, who runs a specialist shop for left-handed people in Worcester, said: "I give talks in schools which cover the whole topic in less than an hour. It infuriates me that the needs of over a million children can be ignored when the solution is so simple."

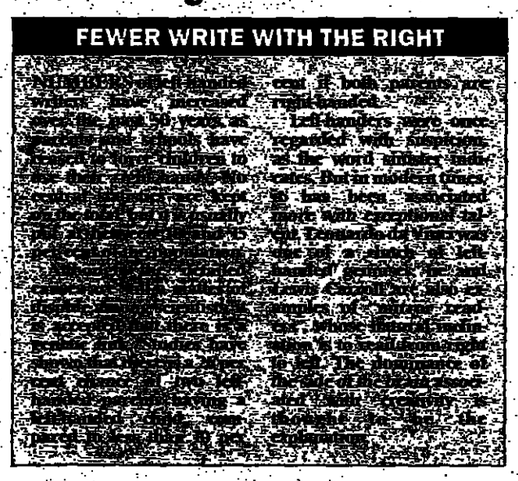
Peter Luff, the Conservative MP who has championed the cause as a left-hander, blamed ministers for underestimating the extent of the problem. He protested to David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, after a letter from a civil servant said: "It is not felt that left-handed pupils will have significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age, nor will it make it difficult for them to use the educational facilities provided locally." Mr Luff said: "Left-handed children can be shown easy ways to cope with their writing and other difficulties, but only if teachers realise they can help. The Government seems to take the view that it can't be bothered. I am really saddened by this arrogant and offhand approach."

Mr Luff added: "I write awkwardly and I would dearly love to have been taught to do it differently. It would be the easiest thing in the world to sort out."

The TTA declined to comment on Mr Stewart's claims. It said in a statement: "We would expect trainee teachers to be aware of all the factors affecting children's progress, including the effects of left-handedness. National standards for special needs co-ordinators to be published this month will make many references to the need for all teachers to identify and address individual needs, and the responsibility of special needs co-ordinators to keep abreast of current issues."

The Left-handed Club is now searching for sponsors so that it can provide teachers with a 20-minute video.

FEWER WRITE WITH THE RIGHT



Great caravan trek take its toll

By Gillian Harris

A COUPLE who spent seven years travelling around the world with their children in a horse-drawn caravan have separated three months after returning to Britain.

Kate and David Grant left their former home in Orkney in 1990 and trekked through The Netherlands, Belgium, France, Italy, Austria, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, China, Japan, the United States and Canada. They arrived back in December.

At her temporary home at Kirriemuir, Tayside, Mrs Grant, 46, admitted that the adventure had taken its toll. "We have separated. I suppose, being honest, it has been a long time coming. We were concerned about how it would affect the children if we split up away from home." Now her husband lives with a family friend in Ahroath, where he is writing a book about their travels.

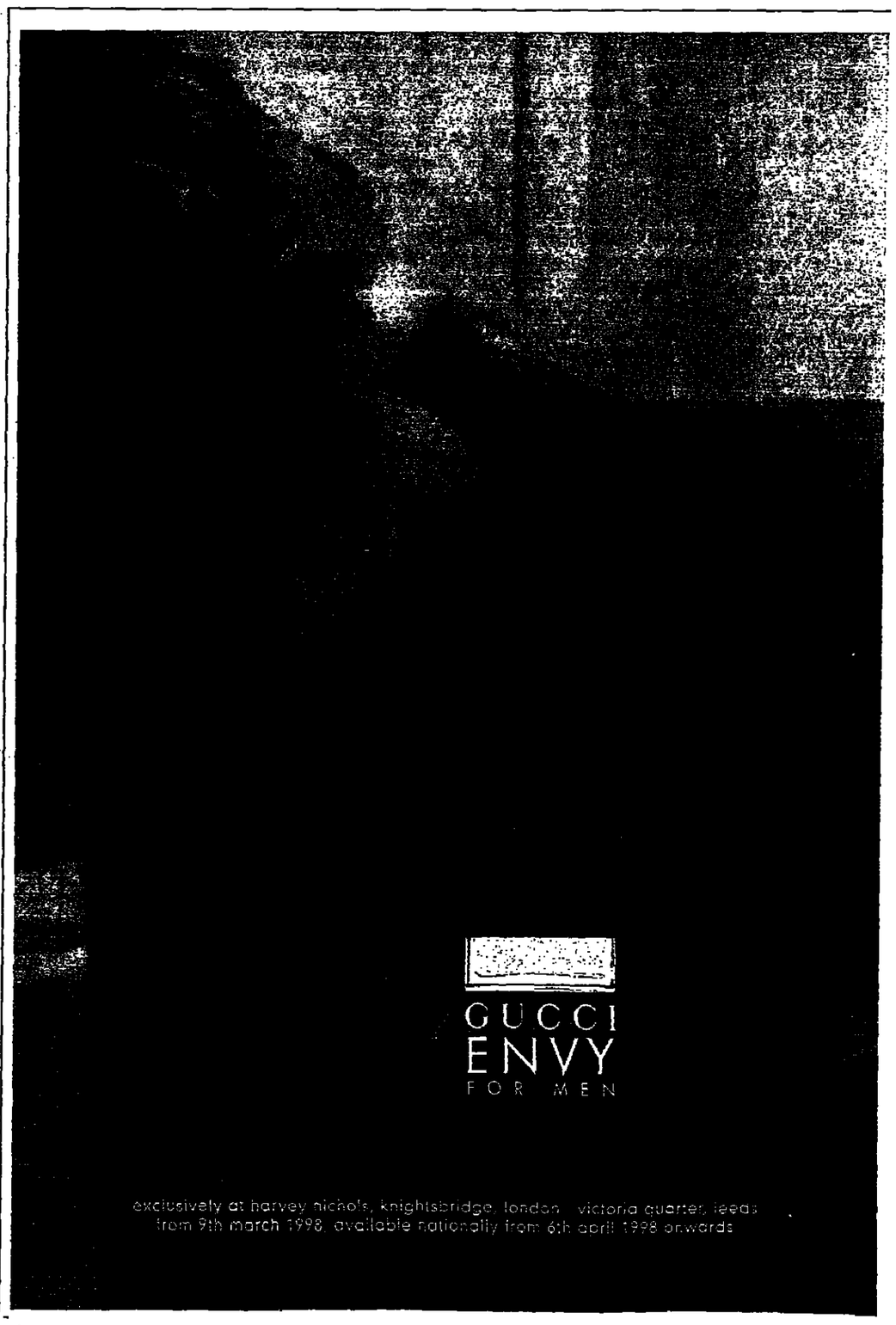


The Grant family on return from their travels

Mrs Grant is living with her sons, Torquil, 17, and Fionn, 13. "The transition from travelling for seven years has been pretty hard," she said. "The worst thing has been not having my own home — just somewhere to put my own things and hang my own pictures. It's the same for the children. We just all need to put down roots."

Torquil is to begin a college course while Fionn, who was five when the trip began, has started at the local high school. The couple's daughter, Eilidh, 16, is working at a stable in Oxfordshire.

The family's 12,360-mile journey was intended as an escape from the rat race. They built the caravan, which Mrs Grant called the "red coffin", and set off with a horse and £75,000, visiting 15 countries. In Mongolia Mr Grant was threatened with jail by a policeman who believed he had fired a catapult at a passer-by. He escaped a prison sentence but the family was thrown out of China.



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Father and daughter sue over false memory

Gillian Harris reports on family launching Britain's first case on bogus claims of childhood abuse that tested their trust to the limit



Jim Fairlie with his Katrina in 1992, before the controversy began, and, right, with his wife, Kay, yesterday. "This took an enormous toll," he said

JAMES FRASER



JIM FAIRLIE was at work when he received an unexpected call to his eldest daughter's house. He arrived to find his wife and four of their five children waiting grim-faced to confront him with allegations that he had sexually abused his youngest daughter, Katrina, since she was a baby.

Katrina, 28, then a psychiatric patient at Murray Royal Hospital in Perth, told doctors that her father and 17 other men, including two MPs, had raped her, and that her father killed a six-year-old with an iron bar. Her claims were made when she was medicated and experiencing "flashbacks".

Six months later, she withdrew the allegations and wrote begging forgiveness, saying she had undergone "recovered-memory therapy" which led her to make false accusations. Now father and daughter are suing Perth and Kinross Healthcare Trust and the area social work department in the first case of its kind in Britain.

Mr Fairlie, 58, a former deputy leader of the Scottish National Party, said: "I don't think the recovered-memory lobby have any idea of the damage they do to families, but I am determined to hold them accountable."

The court case will again focus attention on the contentious treatment that has split the medical profession. Next month the Brandon Report, which blames recovered-memory therapy for thousands of false accusations, is to be published in the *British Journal of Psychiatry*. It has led to such controversy that the Royal College of Psychiatrists, which commissioned the first study, refused to allow the findings to be published under its name.

> "It was a terrible time. My daughter has been robbed of years of her life"

For Mr Fairlie, the reverberations of that day in 1995 will never disappear: "When I walked into that room where my family was sitting, these people were the closest to me in the world. By the time I walked out 15 minutes later, knowing that they believed the accusations and couldn't look me in the eye, I wanted to be as far away as possible."

He bought a bottle of whisky and checked into a hotel. He had no idea why Katrina was making up stories. He had always been close to all his children, but only Katrina shared his love of horses and they used to go riding near the family home in Crieff, Perthshire.

The following day he mentioned the allegations to the senior partner in the law firm where he works as a financial adviser, and to the editor of the *Perthshire Advertiser*, where he is a financial columnist. Both were shocked, but assured him of their support.

Later, when he saw his wife, Kay, she admitted that she and the other children had reluctantly believed the accusations put to them by psychiatrists and social workers, but his outrage when confronted made them realise he was innocent: "That was the turning point — we started acting as a family although relationships remained strained.

"For a while, I stopped seeing my grandchildren. "I had always had a super relationship with them, but even now I stop them sitting on my knee. I still won't stay in the house on my own with them and I would never see them in the bath."

At the time, the Fairlies knew nothing about recovered-memory therapy. "We thought we were the only people in the world this had happened to," he said. The British False Memory Society has 1,000 cases on its books.

Mr Fairlie did not blame Katrina, who had been ill since June 1994 after suffering alleged psychosomatic symptoms which caused her pain.

In the psychiatric unit she was prescribed various drugs which made her experience "flashbacks". Psychiatrists encouraged her to keep a journal and note down what she remembered. Mr Fairlie said: "In many ways we were lucky. Katrina's allegations were bizarre and involved high-profile people including MPs." The allegations were reported to the police, who established there was no evidence. Mr Fairlie said: "It was a terrible time. I was so angry. I knocked hell out of the weights at the gym, and galloped for miles on my horse.

"It took an enormous toll on the family. Even when Katrina came out of hospital in March 1996, it did not get easier. She was suicidal, so Kay and I had to sleep in two-hour shifts to keep an eye on her."

It was not until Katrina received treatment at The Priory, a private psychiatric hospital in London, that she began to get better. Now she has her own flat in Perth and a part-time job in a charity shop. Until five weeks ago, her father could not be alone with her in a room: "I know that hurt her very much, but it took a long time for me to feel comfortable. It's great to see Katrina better, but this whole thing has to be resolved through our legal actions. My daughter has been robbed of years of her life."

Perth and Kinross Healthcare Trust said it could not comment on individual cases because it was bound by patient confidentiality.

Presenters win fight against radio cuts

BY RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

MELVYN BRAGG and Libby Purves have won their battle to stop their Radio 4 programmes, *Start the Week* and *Midweek*, being cut from 55 minutes to 30 from April 1 under restructuring of the schedule by James Boyle, the station Controller.

The plan was to reduce the number of guests to fit in with the new format, but both presenters thought it would be better to create new, perhaps single-subject interview programmes instead. Both made pilot 30-minute programmes and Mr Boyle conceded that the change did not work.

Both programmes will now run for 45 minutes — close to their existing length. Considerable controversy is expected later this month when Mr Boyle formally announces his new schedules.

The biggest dispute so far has involved parliamentary coverage, particularly the plan to move *Yesterday in Parliament* and carry it, at greater length, on long wave only.

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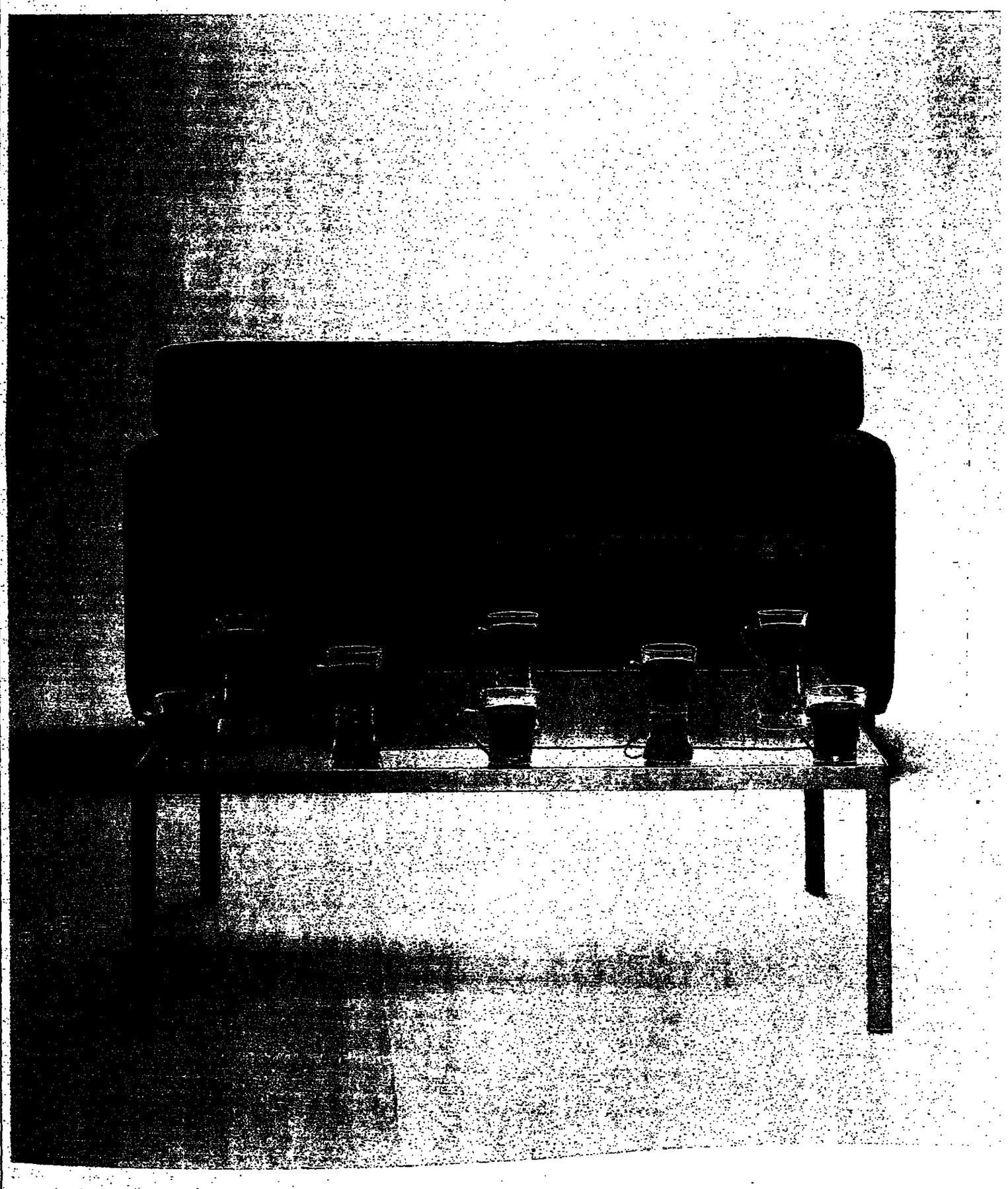
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BRITISH AIRWAYS

BSE inquiry will break new ground

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 300 ministers, former ministers and civil servants have been warned that they may be required to give evidence at the public inquiry into "mad cow" disease, which opens today.

The inquiry, under Lord *Justice Phillips, is expected to* be one of the fullest and most thorough set up by a Government, rivalling the Scott inquiry. But it is also set to become a model for new, high-tech proceedings.

The inquiry, which could cost up to £10 million, will be the first to have its own *Website carrying daily tran*scripts and witnesses' submissions in advance of giving evidence, so that members of the public may alert the inquiry to any errors. It will also allow in cameras for the opening statements by the judge, by the counsel to the inquiry, Paul Walker, and others (although not for cross-examination of witnesses) and there will be a permanent radio feed, so that live broad*casts will be possible.* The judge, lawyers and representatives of the victims or farming industry will have laptop computers.

LiveNote, the instant automatic transcription of what is said in court, will be used. This system, operated by Smith Bernal, was deployed in the trial of the Maxwell brothers, in which Lord Justice Phillips won plaudits for his efficient handling and insistence on new technology.

As the words are said, they appear on a computer screen and can be immediately annotated or cross-indexed. At any time, all references to one witness or a date can be accessed.

The Scott inquiry spent a year trawling for documents and obtaining all the evidence before the hearings began. The BSE inquiry, announced before Christmas, has already received more than 500 submissions and more are still being sought by special teams in Whitehall. It plans to go ahead with the first stage, the fact-finding hearings, as these are collated and analysed.

Nor will draft findings be sent out to those involved before publication — what became known as Scott letters — to enable people to comment. That process delayed Scott by several months.

Today there will be opening statements from the judge, counsel to the inquiry and others, and then witnesses will give evidence, starting with a narrative account of the early cases of BSE and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease — as one official put it, "what it was actually like for the families of the victims" — followed by scientific evidence.

The deadline for reporting is the end of this year and is possible that Lord Justice Phillips may ask the Government for an extension of six months. Even at a total of 18 months, the inquiry would still take half the time of the Scott inquiry.

The non-statutory status of the inquiry means that it has no power to summon witnesses or insist on disclosure of papers. It does not expect to meet with resistance; if it did, it could seek powers at a later date.

But Lord Justice Phillips is keen to make the atmosphere as public, as user-friendly and inquisitorial as possible. There will be no private hearings.

The terms of reference are to establish and review the history of the emergence and identification of BSE and the new-variant CJD in Britain and of the action taken for ten years until March 1996.

The Scott inquiry was criticised for having no experience or knowledge of the workings of Whitehall. The BSE inquiry committee includes a senior civil servant, June Bridgeman, most recently deputy chairwoman of the Equal Opoprtunities Commission. Also included is Malcolm Ferguson-Smith, Professor of Pathology at Cambridge and a well-knwon geneticist.

The team has already produced an impressive array of working documents, including a glossary of scientific terms, a list of individuals involved, a BSE "time line" listing the main events, and a list of papers available for public inspection.

The inquiry's Internet site *is: http://www.bse.org.uk*



RICHARD POHLE

Online: an electrician makes the finishing touches before the inquiry opens today. It will make daily transcripts available on the Internet

Canada seizes British meat

Canada has begun a nationwide food inspection campaign after illegal meat-based products from Britain were seized from shops in eastern and western Canada. Imports have been banned since 1996. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency said the products — beef bullion, soups and meat pies — were found in Calgary, Alberta; Halifax, Nova Scotia; Richmond, British Columbia; Montreal; and Toronto. Shop owners were told to destroy them.

Wildlife chief wants green levy to save peat bogs

Nick Nuttall meets the woman who promises a fresh approach at English Nature

HUNDREDS of beauty spots would be saved from peat, quarry and water abstraction under proposals by the Government's recently appointed chief wildlife adviser.

Baroness Young of Old Scone told *The Times* that she would be pressing ministers for a green levy on peat, minerals and water taken from Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). The millions raised would be used to buy out the historic rights to make abstractions from these areas.

Lady Young, who becomes chairman of English Nature in May, said: "If you look at peat, a 40p levy on each bag sold in Britain would raise enough to buy out all the extraction permissions on the high-quality SSSIs in a very short period. This seems to me to be the right thing to do. You put on a levy to discourage people from buying an environmentally damaging product and generate funds to buy out the permissions."

Lady Young, currently chief executive of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said it was logical to extend green taxes to other activities that threatened the environment. These included quarrying for construction and road-building materials, and water abstraction by water companies, farmers and industry.

Some 89 fenland, river and marshland SSSIs are being damaged by over-abstraction. Peat extraction to supply the horticultural trade and garden centres threatens Thorne and Hatfield Moors in Yorkshire, among others, home to rare bog plants such as sundews, birds such as snipe and nightjars, and insects such as dragonflies. Mineral extraction and quarrying threatens hundreds of SSSIs.

A 40p-a-bag tax on peat on sale in Britain would raise £12 million a year, according to studies by the RSPB and the Peatlands Consortium. As well as raising enough funds to buy out extraction rights on SSSIs, this would finance the restoration of damaged lowland peat bogs and the promotion of alternatives.

Environmental groups have accused English Nature of acting as the poodle of government and landowners rather than putting nature first. But a change of approach is evident at the organisation.

A formidable manager, who cut her teeth in the fraught politics of city health authorities, Lady Young called for a new vision for the organisation, bringing government, landowners, business and green groups closer together. "English Nature has been so used to getting signals from government not to rock the boat. But we are getting very different signals from this Government. They do not want their statutory nature conservation body at their throat. But they do want clear and independent advice."

A priority will be helping the Government to steer a Bill through Parliament aimed at reforming the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which has been criticised as lacking teeth. Lady Young indicated that she would be seeking tougher and streamlined powers to deal with landowners or farmers who neglected SSSIs or were bent on "damaging these cathedrals of nature".

She said: "We need to move more to paying people to manage the land positively, rather than paying them the profits they are forgoing for not chopping down a wood or ploughing up a meadow. But we also need an ascending scale of nastiness for exceptional cases."

Lady Young compared the powers for preserving nature with those for listed buildings. "The local authority can move in and do repairs and hand the bill to the landlord. It is clearly not as easy when you are dealing with land, but we are thrashing ideas around.

"In some countries, if a landlord finds nature conservation regulations so irksome he no longer wants to own the land, the state has to buy him out at a reasonable market rate. I think that is quite attractive."

Lady Young said she would also be pushing the Government to spend a bigger slice of its funds from the common agricultural policy on agri-environment schemes, which compensate farmers, for example, for reducing stocking levels of sheep on moorlands, and reducing the use of pesticides on crops.



Young would use levy to buy out extraction rights

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man in TV audience charged with attack

A man has been charged with assaulting security staff during an alleged incident that forced a live television debate off the air. The 42-year-old, from Portsmouth, was arrested at Carlton Television's Nottingham studios as filming was interrupted for *Central Weekend*. He was also charged with a public order offence and bailed to appear before Nottingham magistrates next month.

Airport scare

A Continental Airlines DC10 had to be evacuated on the runway at Manchester airport when fuel was spotted leaking from an engine just before take-off. The 249 passengers left the aircraft safely by emergency chutes.

Youth arrested

A boy aged 15 has been arrested under suspicion of attempted murder after a *nurse was knocked down* by her own car as she tried to stop two youths stealing it from outside Queen Alexandra Hospital in Cosham, Hampshire.

Pet-shop blaze

Thirty exotic birds, about 60 small mammals and more than 1,000 fish died in an arson attack on a pet shop in Eastleigh, Hampshire. The two-hour fire started when a blazing wheely bin was placed against the rear doors.

Gulf memorial

The nine Scottish servicemen who died in the Gulf War were remembered at a service at Glasgow Cathedral. A memorial plaque was unveiled, containing the names of the seven soldiers and two airmen.

Plaque damage

A memorial to the murdered teenager Stephen Lawrence has been chipped and dashed with white paint. The plaque is at the bus stop in Eltham, southeast London, where the 18-year-old was stabbed to death in 1993.

Bubbling over

Sales of champagne — one of the most revealing economic indicators — reached just over 22 million bottles in Britain last year, the highest since the boom year of 1989, when the figure was 22.8 million.

Anti-theft device can quicken heart rate

BY IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

ELECTRONIC anti-shoplifting devices can put people fitted with pacemakers in danger, researchers say.

The problem is caused by the signals sent out by detectors at store entrances, which react to security tags fixed to articles in the shop if the articles are carried out.

Tests in America, Germany and France have shown that, if a pacemaker wearer stands close to where the signals are being emitted, the heart rate increases, causing dizziness and palpitations.

Such electronic surveillance systems exist in about a third of big stores in Britain and are expected to be in use almost everywhere within the next decade. There are 200,000 people in Britain wearing pacemakers and their number is expected to rise sharply.

Research led by Michael McIvor, of the St Petersburg Heart Institute in Florida has shown that the acousto-magnetic signals transmitted by the most modern anti-theft systems cannot be screened out by the pacemakers, which are designed to be safe from normal radio and electromagnetic transmissions. The Food and Drugs Administration in America has now warned pacemaker wearers to move quickly through the security gates to avoid problems.

Joshua Bamfield, of the *Centre for Retail Research at* Nottingham, said: "The problem is that these devices are often hidden and cannot be seen."

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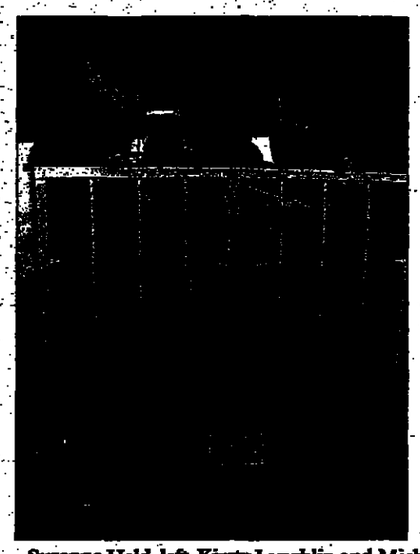
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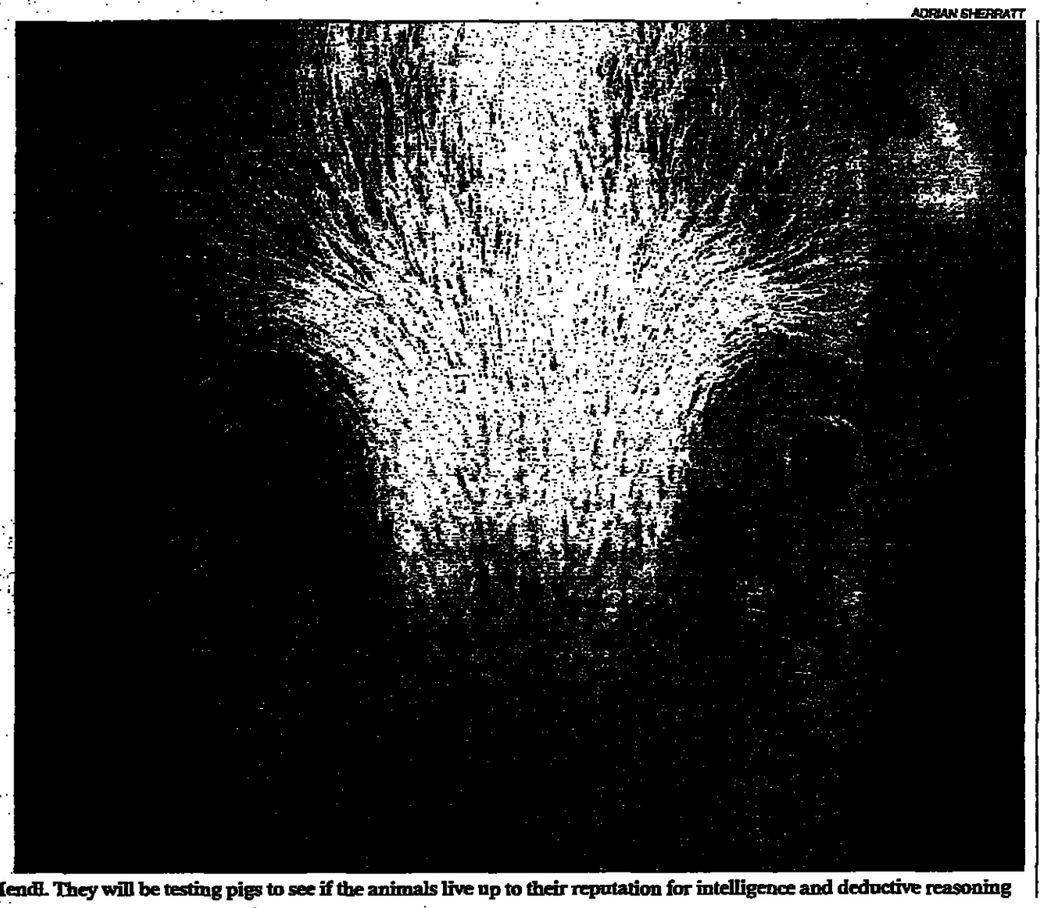
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Experiment will show if pigs are farmyard brains

£200,000 study should clear up puzzle with sty-Q tests, writes Michael Hornsby





ADRIAN SHERRATT

Suzanne Held, left, Kirsty Laughlin and Michael Mendl. They will be testing pigs to see if the animals live up to their reputation for intelligence and deductive reasoning

SCIENTISTS are delving into the minds of domestic pigs to discover whether the animals are as clever as is popularly believed.

George Orwell made pigs the natural leaders of the revolution in *Animal Farm*, while the adventures of the Tamworth Two, who gave their minders the slip at a Wiltshire abattoir earlier this year, confirmed the view of pigs as creatures of guile and intelligence.

Michael Mendl, a lecturer in animal behaviour at Bristol University's Department of Clinical Veterinary Science, has just begun a £200,000 research programme to see if they deserve their reputation as the brains of the farmyard.

The work, which will involve a series of experiments spread over three years, is being funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, a government-backed body. About 80 pigs will take part, all commercially bred hybrids of the type commonly reared by farmers for meat.

"We know that pigs are quick learners," Dr Mendl said. "But it is not clear what higher levels of cognitive ability they have. To what extent, for example, are they capable of understanding the intentions of other pigs and making use of the knowledge they possess?"

The tests follow studies in the United States, where scientists claim to have trained pigs to use a joystick attached to their snouts to play simple computer games of a kind used to stimulate children in need of remedial education. Farmers' tales are legion of the speed with which pigs are able to master the automatic feeding systems now installed on most farms, and their ingenuity in beating the systems to get extra rations.

In one experiment in the new study — based on similar tests on chimpanzees — a lightweight pig, trained to know where a supply of food has been hidden, will be put with a heavier companion that does not have this information.

"We want to see if the uninformed pig will make use of the lightweight pig as a source of knowledge about where the food trough is," said Suzanne Held, a research assistant working with Dr Mendl. "If the heavier pig follows the lighter one to the food, it will presumably use its greater weight to keep the other pig away and take all the food for itself.

"The question then is whether the lighter pig can develop deceptive behaviour, perhaps leading the heavier animal to a spot where there is no food and then darting back to the trough before the other pig realises it has been duped.

"Will the heavier pig then devise counter-measures of its own, for example, by feigning lack of interest and so lulling the knowledgable pig into a sense of false security?"

Other tests being carried out by Kirsty Laughlin, a PhD student working under Dr Mendl's supervision, have already shown that pigs have good spatial memory. These trials require the pigs to remember where food was in a metal-frame maze and then learn that, on their return to the maze after a ten-minute absence, the food will be found in a different place. It takes the pigs between 11 and 25 days to master this task.

The research has also shown that pigs' memories can be disrupted by physical stress or emotional disturbance. If, for example, they are introduced during the ten-minute interval to a pig they have not seen before, their memories are more likely to play tricks on them.

Another elaborate experiment is designed to show whether one pig can work out by deduction which out of two others is the best to follow to find food. Later trials will investigate the pigs' ability to recognise and remember individual animals and if they can be taught ways of improving their memories.



Animal Farm: where the pigs held sway

Leading article, page 23

First drop in drug use among the young

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

DRUG use among young teenagers is falling for the first time in five years, according to a report published today.

However, the survey, by academics at Exeter University, shows that a quarter of 14 to 15-year-olds have tried drugs. It also suggests that teenagers in rural areas are more likely than their inner-city counterparts to experiment with illegal drugs. Research among 23,317 pupils in 122 schools showed that 27 per cent of those in rural areas had experience of one or more drug, compared to 18 per cent of those in towns and cities.

The Exeter Schools Health Education Unit said that despite the drop from a third of the age group experimenting in 1996, the long-term trend was up. "Another way of appreciating the upsurge is to consider that the percentage of youngsters of 12 to 13 in 1996 that recorded experience of illegal drugs was greater than that of 15 to 16-year-olds in 1987."

No link between passive smoking and lung cancer

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A TEN-YEAR study carried out for the World Health Organisation has failed to find a clear link between passive smoking and lung cancer.

The results of the study, the largest in Europe, hint that those who live or work with smokers have slightly elevated risks. But the margins of error are so wide that no clear conclusion can be drawn.

The study, by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, compared 650 lung cancer patients with 1,542 healthy people in seven European countries. The results were expressed as "risk ratios", where the normal risk for a non-smoker of contracting lung cancer is set at one. Exposure to tobacco smoke in the home raised the risk to 1.16, and to smoke in the workplace to 1.17. This represents a 16 or 17 per cent increase. But the range of error is wide, from 0.93 to 1.44 in the case of exposure in the home, meaning that the figures imply anything between a slightly reduced risk and a modestly increased one.

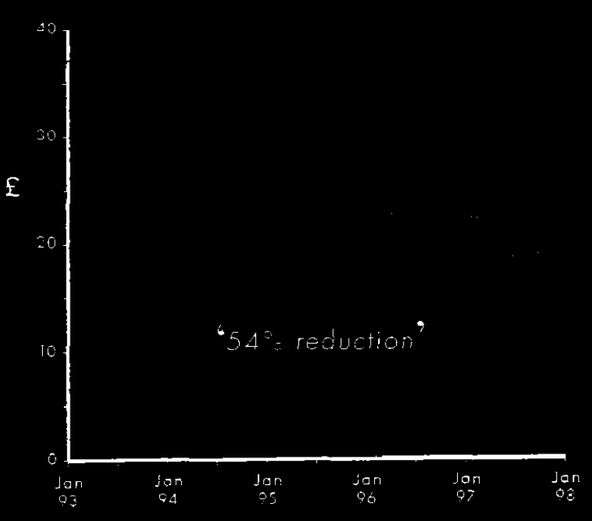
Many previous studies have also failed to show convincingly that passive smoking increases cancer risks. Chris Proctor, head of science for British American Tobacco, said: "While smoking may annoy some non-smokers, the science does not show that being around a smoker is a lung cancer risk."

Professor Gordon McVie, director-general of the Cancer Research Campaign, accused BAT of launching a spoiling operation ahead of this week's national No Smoking Day, on Wednesday, and publication of a government report on passive smoking. "The weight of the statistics show that there is more likely to be an effect than not to be an effect."

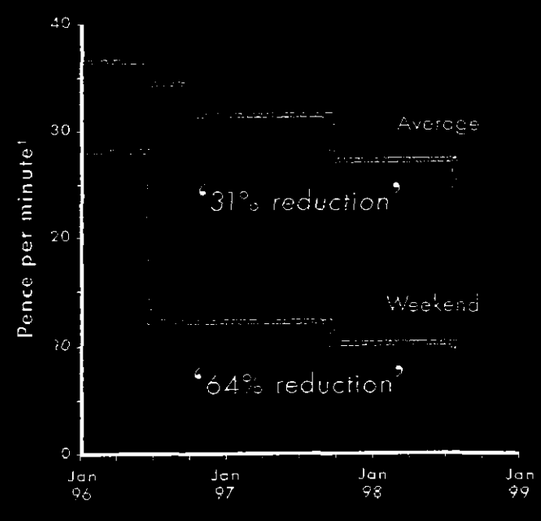
☐ The Government's Scientific Committee on Smoking and Health is expected to say that passive smoking does pose increased risks, and back greater curbs on smoking in public places.

Vodafone's falling call costs. A graphic demonstration.

Average monthly cost of owning and using a Vodafone*



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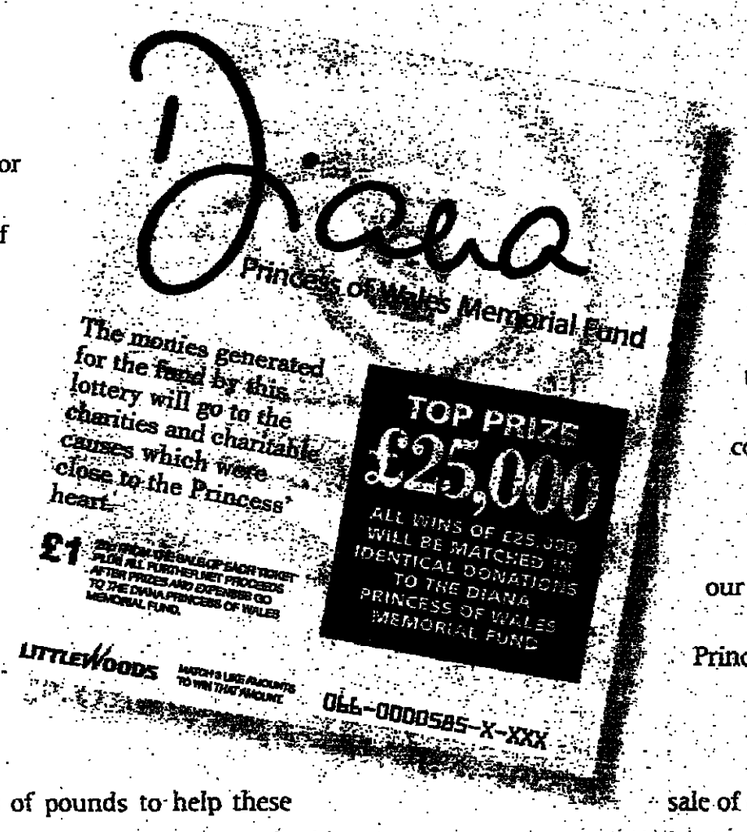
*These figures are based on a customer using the optimum digital tariff for making 20 minutes of calls a month, 50% at peak times and 50% at off-peak times.
† Upper line refers to average retail price/min across the week, including VAT; 66% daytime, 21% evening and 13% weekends. Lower line refers to weekend only retail price/min, including VAT.

You can help the charitable causes which were supported by Diana, Princess of Wales.

Today sees the launch of the official not for profit charity lottery for The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

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British bakers serve their own 'Sheila slice'

Home-grown oestrogen bread is said to reduce the ill-effects of menopause, reports **Russell Jenkins**

BRITISH bakers are to challenge the success of the Australian ladies' loaf, which is aimed at menopausal women, with their own version.

The bread, enriched with plant oestrogen, is said to help middle-aged women to ward off hot flushes and brittle-bone disease. It will soon make an appearance in the form of large and small loaves, rolls, baps and made-up sandwiches. Four slices are said to provide a natural alternative to hormone replacement therapy.

Independent bakers have been stung into action by Allied Bakeries, the country's biggest breadmaker, importing the "Sheila slice" from Australia, where it is said to have "put the waltz back into Matilda". Burgen is a neatly packaged 800-gram loaf baked with soya flour and linseeds, rather than wheat. The ingredients are rich in phyto-oestrogens, chemicals produced by plants that mimic female hormones. Until now it has had a monopoly on supermarket shelves.

Don Millers Bakery in Derby, part of a national chain, is preparing to launch its own, as yet unnamed, version at the end of next month. Other bakeries in the North East and the South West are formulating their own recipes. The independents are convinced their versions will be superior to the supermarket product, which, they say, tastes "like a mouthful of birdseed".

Adam O'Connor, Don Millers' general manager, spent months experimenting with a mixture of ingredients before perfecting a variety of breads. "The Burgen loaf is not particularly flavoursome and, at 95p, it is quite expensive," he said. "We felt if we could make it tastier and offer a variety, it could become a more appealing product as well as being healthy."

He said that, when he advertised for 12 middle-aged women to take part in a six-week trial, he had 90 calls in two days. "A lot of men phoned up to ask whether we had any for their wives."

Don Millers' bread, which is covered with linseeds, looks like a moist granary loaf and tastes slightly nuttier than the average slice. The guinea pigs were asked to eat four or five slices a day and to record their reactions. One 41-year-old woman, who had undergone a hysterectomy, said in the second week of the trial that her hot flushes and headaches had stopped. She wrote: "Have more energy — still no hot flushes — feel great."

Mr O'Connor said: "The reaction from nearly all the women has been positive. Some felt the benefits within a week, others didn't really feel anything until the second week. All of them, particularly those suffering hot flushes and night sweats, are feeling brighter. They say they are full of life and, as one lady put it, more like she feels like she should be feeling."

The baker's mother and prospective mother-in-law both took part in the trials. Shirley O'Connor, 53, the bakery proprietor, said that, until now, she had suffered in silence. "I am not a very heavy sufferer, but I have definitely felt the beneficial effects. I have felt brighter and the hot flushes have all but disappeared, replaced by a certain *joie de vivre*."

Burgen, developed with the help of researchers at the Royal Women's Hospital and Monash University, both in Melbourne, was launched last September with an advertising campaign featuring the novelist Jilly Cooper.

When it was introduced, food scientists voiced concern that it might not be safe for men to eat a bread so rich in oestrogen. Labelling will make it clear that Don Millers' new bread is strictly for menopausal women.

Mr O'Connor said: "I can't imagine many men would want to eat it in the first place."

DAVID BURNER



Shirley O'Connor, the bakery owner, said she felt the beneficial effects after eating the bread for a trial period



Adam O'Connor and samples of his new bread, which he plans to introduce at the end of April

Hospitals criticised on cancer of ovaries

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

SOME Scottish hospitals are failing their patients by not following best practice in treating ovarian cancer.

A study by the Accounts Commission for Scotland of the 26 hospital trusts which treat women for ovarian cancer describes survival rates in Scotland as poor, with only 29 per cent of women still alive five years after the disease is diagnosed.

The commission says there is "considerable variation" in the extent to which the guidelines for treatment are followed. They say that, unless some hospitals make more progress, they risk being named publicly.

Only nine out of the 26 have put into practice the recommendation that, when ovarian cancer is suspected, patients should be referred instantly to a specialist gynaecologist. Sixteen have implemented the recommendation that, after surgery, patients should be referred to a combined gynaecology and oncology unit.

Drivers told to hoot for art's sake

■ Two musical works to be performed in Manchester will harness the noise of traffic. Motorists passing the concert hall will be asked to join in. Dalya Alberge reports

THE musical possibilities of traffic will be demonstrated by two composers in Manchester next month when they present live a taxi horn concerto and a car symphony.

Stephen Montague will be conducting his taxi concerto for 20 cars, with musicians working wipers and slamming doors, and the Urban Strawberry Lunch group will be playing an "interactive driver's symphony", inviting members of the public to join in with car horns or bicycle bells.

Both works will be part of the World Music Days festival, which combines the experimental and conventional.

Urban Strawberry Lunch's players find musical uses for everyday objects and combine those sounds with that of Manchester's traffic.

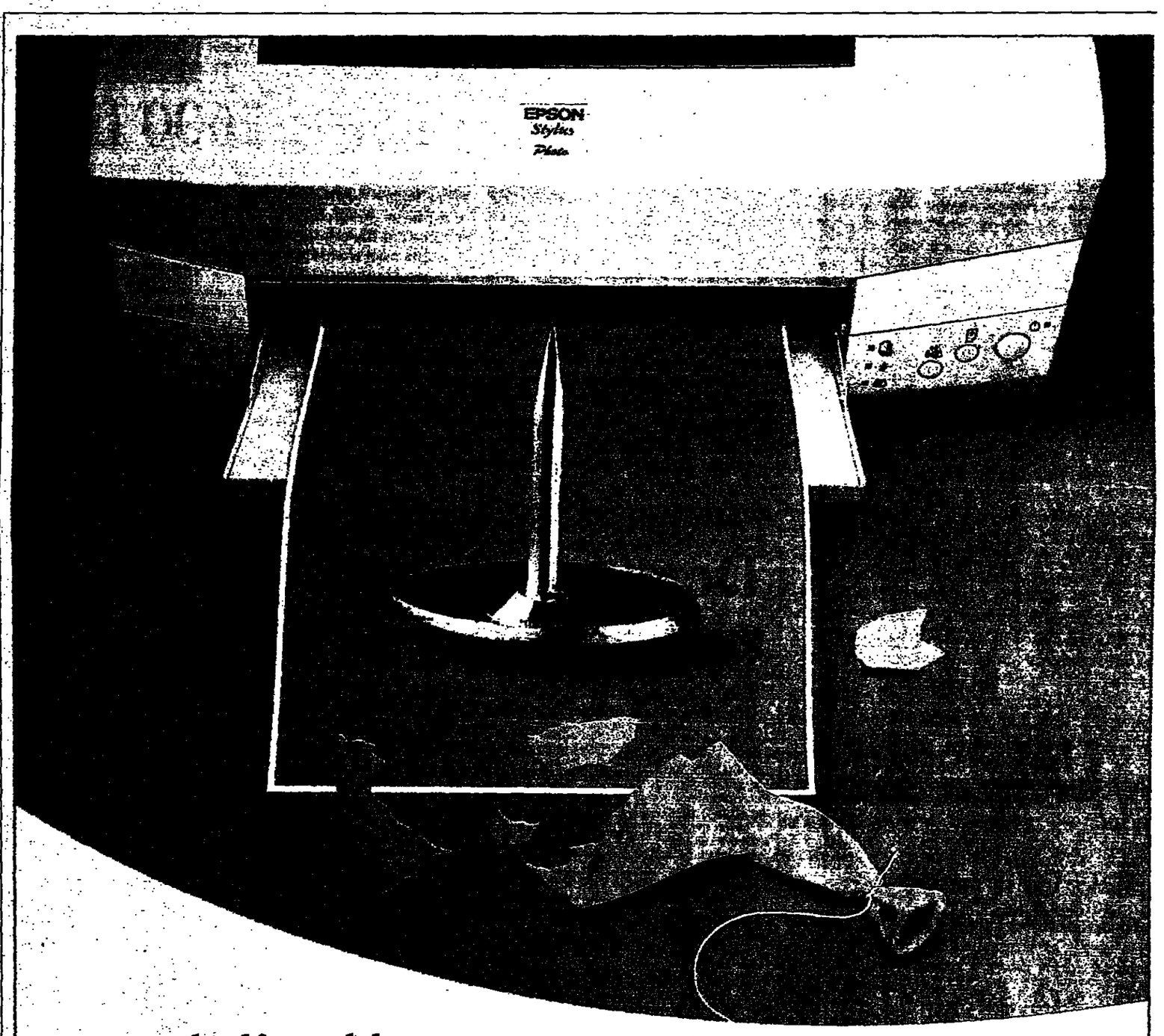
Ambrose Reynolds, one of the group, said: "Any object can be turned into an instrument." Plastic tubing played percussively recreates a cross between a bass guitar and a marimba, car wheels hit with a broom-handle reproduce a chiming sound, a discarded archery bow imitates a synthesiser, and a vacuum-cleaner motor and a large yoghurt pot make deep droning sounds. They also made a snare drum from a kitchen sink, cymbals from gas bottles and an "electric-type" instrument from a shop dummy leg with strings "that you play like a violin". The only conventional instrument is a mouth organ.

Anyone in and around the Bridgewater Hall area, between 5pm and 6pm on April 17, will be invited through roadside signs, leafleting and the local radio station to sound their horn for music's sake. "If you're driving fast," Reynolds said, "you could do continuous beeps; if you're below 20, shorter beeps; and, if stationary, just single short beeps."

Montague's horn concerto, on April 18, is for an orchestra of automobiles. A fleet of taxis and other cars will "show off their musical talents" in front of Manchester's Town Hall. The composer, who has written music for the London Symphony and Royal Philharmonic orchestras, said he would conduct it just like any other horn concerto.

"I wanted 20 different horns. When they [the festival] told me that one taxi rank was going to sponsor it, I was horrified. I don't want all the horns to sound alike. I don't know if all taxi horns have the same horns, but I'm going to audition them in a week's time."

But the performers for his piece have to be musicians: there will be some musical notation. He said: "It's about breaking down barriers and hearing music in everything. I worked for years with John Cage with the idea that all sound is music."



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A nation of tuckshop tycoons

Prime Minister has vision of new enterprise culture growing up through schools, reports Valerie Elliott

TONY BLAIR wants schools to teach children as young as nine the thrills and skills of running a business. He believes that encouraging a generation of tuckshop tycoons will help to create a new enterprise culture and foster more entrepreneurs in the league of Richard Branson and Alan Sugar.

At a reception at 10 Downing Street today Mr Blair will support the creation of Mini Enterprise projects in every school. The idea came from a new research study, *The Entrepreneurial Society*, produced by the Institute of Public Policy Research, a left-of-centre think-tank.

Many Scottish schools already have young enterprise projects, but there has been little interest elsewhere. Training and Enterprise Councils will organise Mini Enterprise with schools.

Bradford and District Tec has piloted a scheme with six schools a year. Each school is put in touch with a business executive locally, who advises on company structure, marketing and promotions, finance, personnel, planning and production.

At Ryan Middle School in West Bowling, Bradford, 12 and 13-year-olds have cashed in on the Teletubbies craze. Teletubby biscuit-cutters, Tinky Winky bags and bandannas have come off the production line. Each item costs 20p to 50p, plus 10p for delivery. A sale before Christmas raised £35, and the scheme is expected to raise a total of £100 for charity.

Elizabeth Woodyatt, the teacher in charge, said: "It is very successful and brings together pupils of all abilities. Children like competition and they like making money." Nine and 10-year-olds volunteered to help the older pupils to produce the items after school.

Mrs Woodyatt, a technology teacher, said the children adopted formal business roles such as accountant and sales representative. "It is wonderful experience and it has had impact on other subjects. They have used business language, for example, in English lessons and homework."

The think-tank said Mini Enterprise would give practical business experience and skills of teamworking, problem solving and negotiating, planning and presenting. It has urged ministers to include commercial and business skills in teacher training, and to extend the strategy to universities and colleges.

The study also urges greater support and motivation for small businesses. One of the suggestions is to discourage banks from demanding personal guarantees from entrepreneurs to cover loans, because security is already provided under the Loan Guarantee Scheme.

Barbara Roche, Small Business Minister, and officials at the Department of Trade and Industry have been studying the ideas for several weeks. The instigator and co-author of the study is Robert Gavron, multimillionaire chairman of the Guardian Media Group and the Folio Society, who donated £500,000 to Labour's election campaign.

He had a privileged upbringing — prep school, boarding school, Oxford and the Bar — and said he had entered the print world by chance. His teachers and dons would have regarded a business career as "something disreputable", he said.

"We do not have an entrepreneurial culture and we must change it. We must influence schools, universities and colleges. Tony Blair accepts that we must change the culture for people to start their own companies."

Children have already shown their entrepreneurial skills through the Young Enterprise Scheme, which also puts them in touch with businessmen. Underwear with pockets was devised by Taboo, a firm set up by Tiffin girls' school in Kingston, southwest London. Boys at Manchester Grammar School are producing revision guides.



Whiz-kid tells of a nice little learner

EUAN CLARKSON, left, will look every inch the young executive when he meets Tony Blair today. The 18-year-old sixth-former from Havering, East London, who has been managing director of Little Treasures for three years, is to tell the Prime Minister the advantage of learning business skills at school.

Euan already earns about £100 a week and has his own car. His marketing company — the latest venture was Christmas cards — was set up under the Young Enterprise Scheme, which encourages schools to learn from local businesses and to allow their older pupils to set up companies.

Board meetings usually take place on Mondays in his home after studies at Havering Sixth Form College, where he is studying for four A levels.

Euan said: "I have never taken huge amounts of pocket money from my parents. I have always had a principle of doing things myself."

How we pocketed £600 from a bright idea



Peter Foster recalls a number of dubious money-making schemes at his school, not least his own involving 120 engraved cigarette lighters

IN THE mid-1980s, City traders and privatised utility shareholders were not the only ones making a fast buck. In my monastic boarding school, the Thatcherite virtues of self-reliance and entrepreneurial flair that Mr Blair is keen to encourage in today's schoolchildren were alive and well.

For a brief period we aspired to be Margaret Thatcher's most horribly model children. A sixth-former whose parents lived in Bahrain ran a successful import-export operation selling cheap British jeans to the Arabs and duty-free Gulf States cigarettes to his schoolmates. He made a healthy profit on the school black market.

Another was a fledgling soft-porn magnate with magazines and videos for hire, while a third cashed in on the teen party scene and filled night-clubs with 1,500 under-age drinkers paying £15 a time. The editorships of school magazines sold to gullible parents on speech days were sinecures with guaranteed incomes of several hundred pounds.

My small business idea was simple but, I hoped, highly lucrative. The plan was to import 120 Zippo cigarette lighters with the school crest and motto engraved in colour. At the time, the school was gripped by a craze for the lighters, which are used by American GIs and could then be seen in all good Vietnam movies. The marketplace was ripe for exploitation, as Mr Blair's tuckshop tycoons will surely recognise.

Our resources were limited, but a school computer helped to produce a professional looking letter to Zippo headquarters in America asking for a price list and catalogue. Their customised engraving service was generally used by large companies to produce monogrammed pens, golf balls and money clips.

The head librarian was an absent-minded fellow, so we "borrowed" his photocopier card and copied the school crest from the title page of the Rule of St Benedict to show Zippo what we had in mind. It was only later that we were told the abbey's coat of arms is effectively copyrighted by the Pope.

Oblivious to this technicality, my partner and I were delighted with the sample sent to us by Zippo and appointed a sales rep for each of the school's ten houses, with the offer of a free lighter if they managed to sell 12. The response was positive, although I later learnt that our salesmen, spurred on by the incentive scheme, were not always entirely scrupulous.

The lighters cost us £6 each, including duty and the engraving surcharge. We decided to sell at £12, a 100 per cent mark-up, but still significantly cheaper than the British retail price of £15. On the basis of a hasty cigarette packet calculation, we reckoned to clear £600 with almost no risk to ourselves. Our reps would be doing the talking if they were unlucky enough to tangle with the school authorities.

Within days, we had four coffee jars stuffed with cash. The school corridors and classrooms [illegible] distinctive chink-chink of pupils playing with their new acquisitions. Two [illegible] of extension.

hailed as heroes after they snuffed out a fire caused when they accidentally overfilled their lighters. They blamed it on a faulty coffee maker, which was sent back to the manufacturer for analysis.

We were never caught. But I later learnt that the monks knew something was up when several parents, many of whom were old boys, wrote to the headmaster asking where they could get hold of one of his commemorative lighters for Christmas presents.

Sadly, that was the end of the good times. The monks let it lie over the holidays, but made it clear that any further black marketeering, especially [illegible] that threatened to burn down the school, would be treated as offences worthy

Don't let SNP ruin assembly, says Dewar

BY GILLIAN HARRIS, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

DONALD DEWAR yesterday accused the Scottish National Party of attempting to hijack the Scottish parliament so as to hasten the break-up of the United Kingdom.

In a scathing attack on the SNP, the Scottish Secretary warned delegates to the Scottish Labour conference in Perth that the nationalists would try to "abuse and manipulate" the parliament. "They will see it as a mechanism for breaking up Britain, treating the United Kingdom like any other hopefully friendly foreign county, on a par with Spain and Germany."

He said that the parliament "must not become a forum for debates on constitutional change which have been rejected again and again. The election should be about the people's agenda — housing, education, jobs — not the separatist agenda."

The speech, which concluded the conference, was greetly warmly by delegates, but dismissed as "nervous posturing" by one of a small band of SNP demonstrators outside. "Labour is running scared of the SNP. By the time the Scottish elections are held next May, Labour's support will be badly damaged," the protester said.

The prospect of the elections being held during a possible bout of mid-term unpopularity for the Government is causing concern at Westminster. The decision, announced at the weekend, to appoint a spin-doctor for Mr Dewar is apparently intended to avoid damaging gaffes at such a critical time.

The Scottish Secretary has attracted adverse publicity over his decision not to put forward Sean Connery for a knighthood and the suggestion that the first session of the parliament will sit in a disused council building in Glasgow.

But yesterday he regained some lost ground, listing the Government's achievements since coming to office in May. His evident delight at last year's victory in the devolution referendum captured the mood of the conference.

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Serbs step up hunt for rebel cells in Kosovo

FROM TOM WALKER IN PRISTINA

SERB security forces in Kosovo were last night intensifying their search for so-called ethnic Albanian terrorists, contradicting an Interior Ministry statement from Belgrade that the operation against the Kosovo Liberation Army was over.

The heightened troop activity came as President Milosevic rejected calls from the United States for international action to end violence in Kosovo and insisted it was purely an internal matter for what remained of Yugoslavia. At a meeting with Ismail Cem, the Turkish Foreign Minister, in Belgrade, Mr Milosevic in effect told other countries to mind their own business.

After one of its most disastrous weeks in public relations, the Interior Ministry had decided yesterday to give its side of the story to foreign journalists. Those listed to

PROPAGANDA

take part in the propaganda exercise were invited on board a police bus for a tour of villages where the ministry claims it has wiped out the core of the Kosovo Liberation Army. The visit backfired, however, as the trip was cut short because of unexplained operations in the Drenica area.

On Saturday, the ministry had been less inclined to openness, closing off all access to Llaushe and Vojnik, two villages in which police at one road block claimed they were facing "Mujahidin resistance".

Two coaches and several truckloads of police were seen heading into the area for a mopping up operation, which diplomats suspected was a final arrangement of evidence for yesterday's press trip. Also on Saturday, doctors and nurses demonstrated in Pristina after police had blocked their attempts to make an aid corridor to Prekaz, Llaushe, and Vojnic, where the final death toll from the clampdown could be more than 50. The United Nations and other humanitarian agencies, along with the Red Cross, were also turned back. The ministry said that "in the past, such agencies have brought in weapons".

In Prekaz, at least 25 members of one family, the Jasharis, appear to have been killed in the slaughter, including a youth of 16 and a man aged 94. One of the dead, Adem Jashari, was claimed by the ministry to be the leader of the liberation army. "Public enemy number one's dead, the bastard," said a roadblock officer on finding the name Jashari scribbled on a piece of paper in a journalist's pocket he was searching.

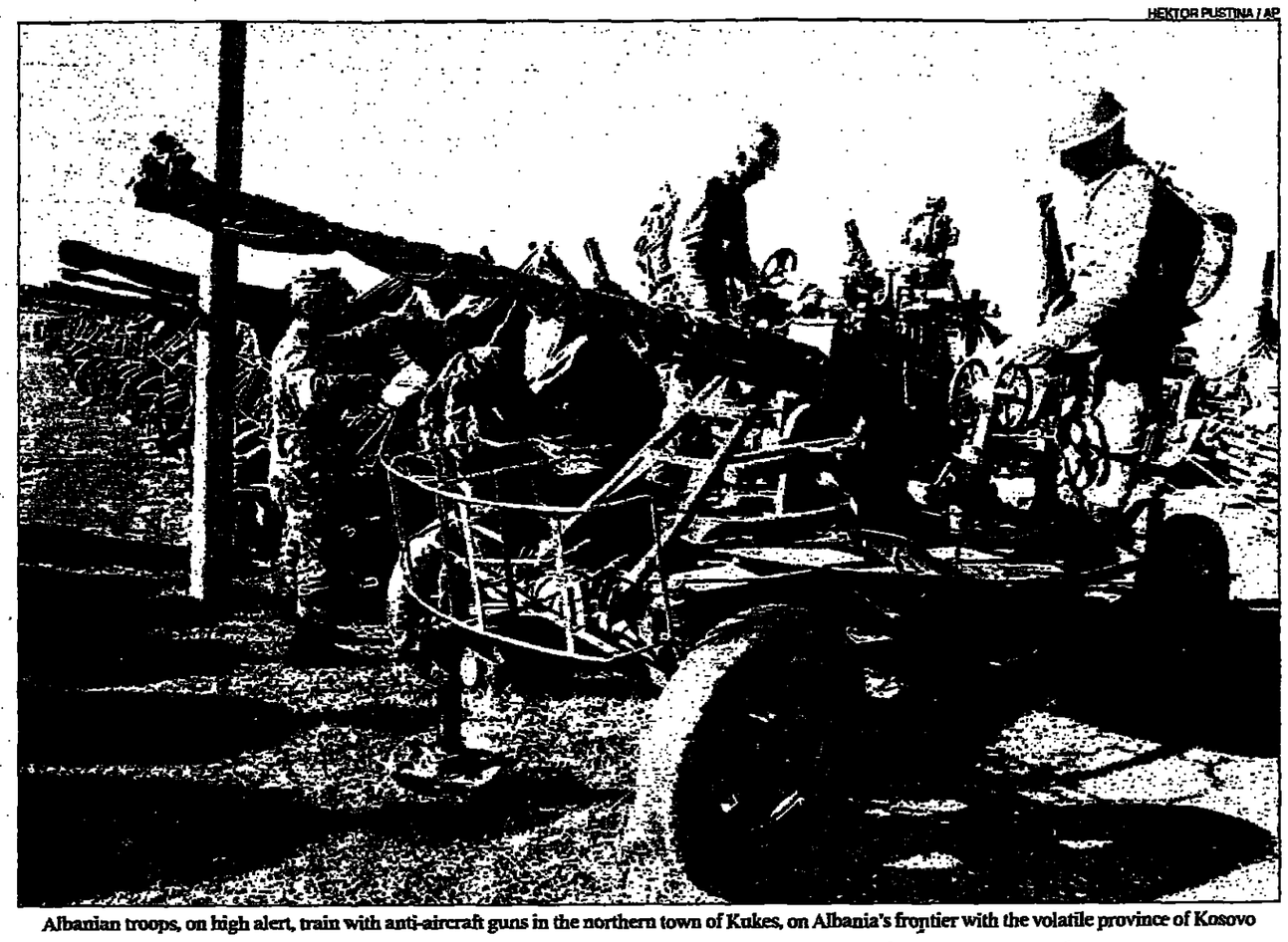
"So it will be quiet in Kosovo again?" the journalist asked.

"No, two million to go," responded the officer.

American diplomatic sources have claimed that while entire families of liberation army members may have been wiped out, satellite images suggest the fighters themselves have dispersed around the region, forming a new guerrilla cell.

Falling into the trap of a media war and desperate for international attention, the Albanians have pushed forward witnesses to the police terror. A woman giving a press conference at the weekend in the headquarters of the Democratic League for Kosovo claimed Prekaz had been overrun by at least 1,000 police, and that she had overheard orders to shoot women and children.

HEKTOR PUSTINA / AP



Albanian troops, on high alert, train with anti-aircraft guns in the northern town of Kukes, on Albania's frontier with the volatile province of Kosovo

Albright urges halt to rash of killings

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

DIPLOMACY

AMERICA yesterday called for immediate action against Yugoslavia to make Belgrade pay the price for the damage it had done in Kosovo.

Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said after talks in Bonn that the violence had had repercussions in Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. "The time to stop the killing is now, before it spreads," she said.

America and Germany sought an immediate end to indiscriminate violence by Serbian security forces. The six leading powers in the Contact Group — others are Britain, France, Italy and Russia — gather in London today to agree on a warning to President Milosevic of Yugoslavia.

Ms Albright, who saw the Pope and Italian Prime Minister in Rome on Saturday, said America would not tolerate a return in Yugoslavia to the politics of divide and rule.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, who will host today's meeting, also denounced the repression, saying Belgrade must open a political process to provide more autonomy to Kosovo.

Encircling 'wolves' await their chance

BY JAMES PETTIFER AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

REGION ON THE BRINK

VIOLENCE in Kosovo and an army mobilisation in Albania are sending shock waves through the southern Balkans. The movement of Kosovo refugees creates a crisis for the whole region, reigniting the Macedonian question — one of the most lethal Balkan conflicts.

Macedonia is a hotchpotch of ethnic groups and nationalities. The 25 per cent Albanian minority lives in the west, separated from Albania and Kosovo only by mountains. Many families have relatives across the borders. The key Albanian leader in Macedonia is Kosovar Arben Xhaferi, a militant educated at Pristina University. Rightly or wrongly, he is regarded as a secessionist by Skopje's Government, and by the West. If thousands of refugees leave Kosovo many will go to join families in Macedonia, so starting the destruction of the country's fragile ethnic balance. Pessimists believe this would lead to secession.

The West has a commitment to President Gligorov's Macedonian state, seen as a barrier to conflict over the territory by Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia and Albania — known as the "Four Wolves". All the bordering states are in dispute with Skopje. Greece cannot accept the name "Republic of Macedonia". Bulgaria does not recognise "Macedonian" as a language and believes it was cheated out of the country after the 1912-13 Balkan Wars. Serbia has boundary disputes, and the Serbian Right believes Macedonia — home to 40,000 Serbs — is part of historic South Serbia.

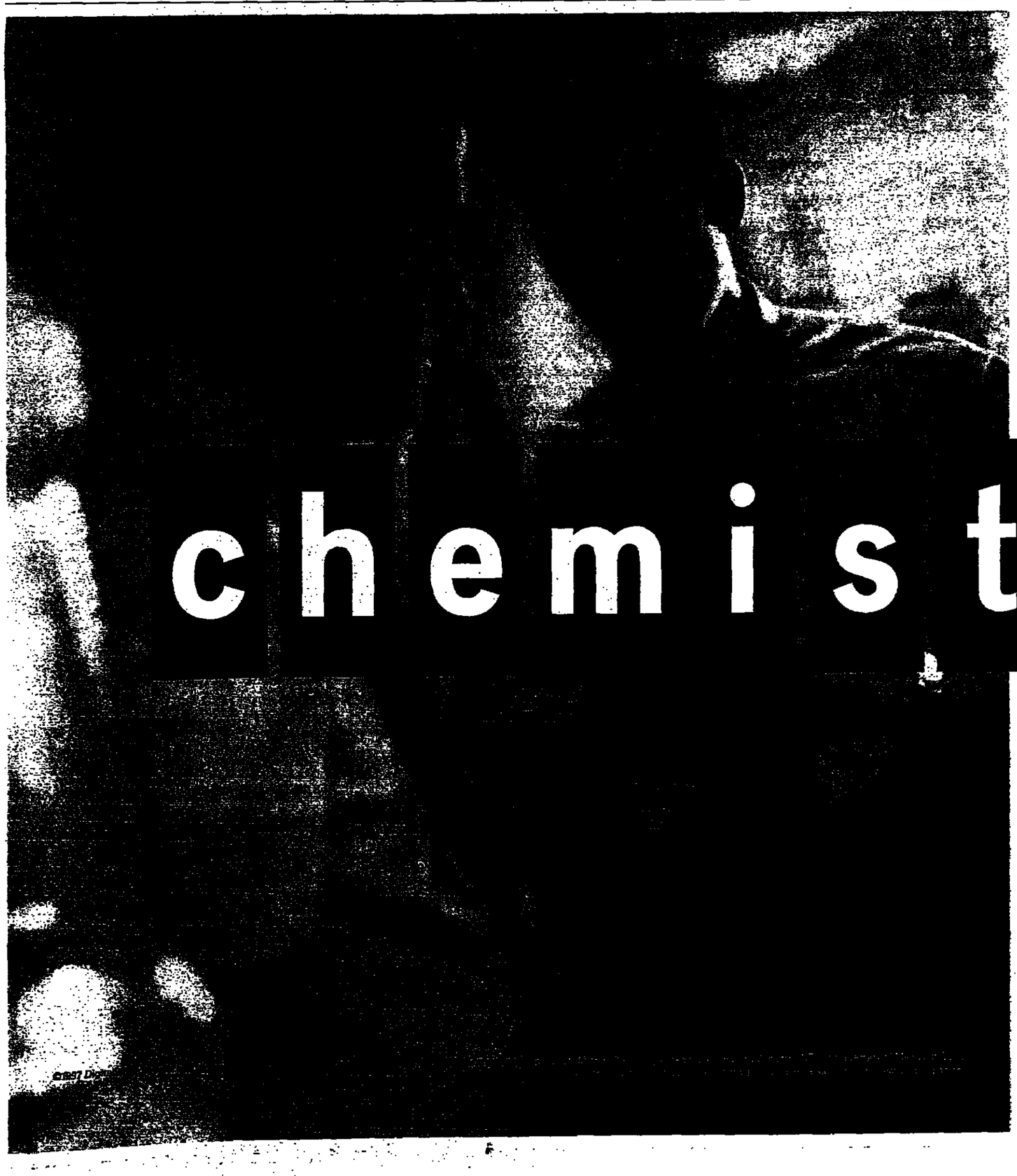
Many say Bulgaria has its own "fifth column" in the form of Imro, the internal Macedonian revolutionary organisation. Imro has its roots in the first modern terrorist organisation that created havoc in Macedonia in the first 50 years of this century. It claims to have abandoned violence but was blamed for an assassination attempt on President Gligorov three years ago.

The West's response has been the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force for the past five years. It is due to be withdrawn in August. Nato's greatest fear centres on the tens of thousands of ethnic Turks in Macedonia. Conflict over them could easily lead to war between Turkey and Greece — both Nato members.

In Germany yesterday the Society for Threatened Peoples, a human rights group, called on Bonn to stop deporting refugees from the fighting in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo. About 400,000 ethnic Albanians live in Germany. Of those, 140,000 are refugees from Kosovo whose asylum applications have been rejected.

The Swiss Government announced yesterday that it would continue the gradual repatriation of 30,000 ethnic Albanian asylum-seekers to Kosovo. Officials argued that the fighting was confined to a small area. The UN's refugee agency is preparing for mass movements similar to those marking the war in Bosnia and Croatia. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees said: "We are still picking up the pieces from the Bosnian War. There are still 1.4 million people who have not been able to return to their homes."

In Kosovo 14,000 Serbs from the Krajina region of Croatia, given refuge in the area in 1995, have told the UNHCR they want to leave, while in Geneva, several hundred Kosovans are holding a round-the-clock vigil outside the UN headquarters, calling for intervention and independence.



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Blair puts strategy for peace to Israel

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, spent 90 minutes in "constructive and friendly" talks with Tony Blair in Downing Street yesterday discussing ways to restart the deadlocked Middle East peace process.

Mr Blair urged him to speed the redeployment of Israeli troops from the occupied territories, and said Britain and its European partners were ready to do what they could to bolster peace. He singled out European aid for the airport and seaport projects in Gaza and the building of a large industrial park.

Britain, holding the European Union presidency, is spearheading a drive by the EU to revive the talks, and Downing Street announced that Mr Blair will visit Israel after Easter. The Prime Minister is also expected to visit the occupied territories.

Last week Mr Blair sent letters to Mr Netanyahu and Yassir Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority, asking them for ideas on how to revive peace talks. Mr Netanyahu yesterday welcomed a more active EU role in the region, which he said should complement that of the United States. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, also called last week for swift Israeli redeployment from the occupied areas and for a parallel commitment by the Palestinians to implement and monitor security agreements.

Earlier Mr Netanyahu said in Norway that he was committed to continuing the search for peace. Speaking at the end of a two-day visit to Oslo, he said that his Government would not give up in its search for peace with the Palestinians and with Israel's other Arab neighbours. He called on Mr Arafat to stop complaining that the peace process was going backwards and sit down with him to work out a way to move it forward.

Mr Netanyahu, making his first visit to the capital where the peace accords with the Palestinians were secretly negotiated, said Norway should still play a role in the peace process.

☐ **Jerusalem:** Israeli researchers have found that dozens of workers at the top-secret Dimona nuclear facility developed cancer after being exposed to plutonium, the *Haaretz* newspaper reported. *(AFP)*



HARALD HENDEN / REUTERS

Binyamin Netanyahu, sporting a headband, is helped by his bodyguards as he trudges up a snow-covered hill in Norway at the weekend

Golan boom quells settlers' fears of pullout

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN KATZRIN, GOLAN HEIGHTS

AWAY from the spotlight, Israel is consolidating its presence on the occupied Golan Heights to the extent that leaders of the Jewish settlers here no longer fear the land being handed back to Syria as they did before the 1996 election.

Since the triumph then of Binyamin Netanyahu, the rightwinger determined to maintain control of the strategic 700 square miles of territory conquered from Syria in 1967, property prices have doubled and new residents have continued to arrive.

The increasing tourist, industrial and residential infrastrure on the Golan has helped to render Israel's latest offer of a conditional troop withdrawal from nearby southern Lebanon a non-starter.

Beirut radio reported yesterday that Syria and its client state, Lebanon, made clear in a joint statement they would accept nothing less than Israel's withdrawal from both its Lebanese buffer zone and the Golan Heights.

On a tour arranged by the settlers, I was shown housing capable of accommodating 500 more Jewish families under intensive construction in an area of Katzrin, the Golan capital, named Patra. "The original permission was given by then Labour Prime Minister, Shimon Peres," said the guide, Ramona Bar-Lev, wife of Katzrin's Mayor. "Netanyahu gave a private contractor the go-ahead and many of these units priced at $120,000 (£72,000) each have already been sold." Mrs Bar-Lev was one of the first Jews to move to the Golan. She revealed that since the 1991 Madrid peace conference, when the now halted Israeli-Syrian peace talks were mooted, the number of Jewish settlers has increased from 12,000 to 17,000, and is still rising.

Many of the new arrivals in the 32 Jewish settlements are from the former Soviet Union. Others are former kibbutzniks from Galilee. The settlers are so confident there will be no sudden handover to Syria of the type once dangled before President Assad by the late Yitzhak Rabin that they have virtually mothballed their propaganda campaign to prevent a pullout.

The latest power struggle within Syria has increased their confidence that Israel will not be entering into any meaningful peace negotiations with the Assad regime in the near future. Western officials have confirmed that President Assad has placed his younger brother, Rifaat, under house arrest, having just stripped him of the vice-presidency.

The Golan, with its spectacular scenery, has become one of the top attractions for Israeli holidaymakers not going abroad, with two million vistors annually. It boasts Israel's only ski resort, its best winery, its largest dairy farm, hot sulphur pools, an alligator park and a huge new Thai restaurant.

Settler confidence has been boosted by the number of investment projects under way and the air link with Tel Aviv, which offers commuters the hour-long round trip twice a day at the knockdown price of £22.

Rabbis 'use thugs to speed divorces'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A GROUP of Brooklyn rabbis is being investigated for allegedly using thugs to beat up Hasidic Jewish men who do not grant their estranged wives a religious divorce, it was reported in New York yesterday.

Several victims have told prosecutors that the rabbis have been resorting to such methods in Brooklyn's Hasidic enclaves for more than ten years. Pat Clark, a Brooklyn District Attorney's office official, told the *New York Post* of the investigation. Charges are expected to be brought soon.

The problem is believed to stem from the fact that, under Hasidic rules, a woman can secure a religious divorce, called a *get*, only if her husband consents to give her one. Without his permission, she is considered married to him until death.

That has led to strife in many Hasidic households. Estranged wives are often trapped in joyless marriages, without custody of their children or property rights. Recalcitrant husbands can refuse to grant a *get* for as long as they please.

The strong-arm tactics alleged to be employed by some rabbis are believed to have come after pleas from women for help in securing a divorce. According to the investigators, many desperate Hasidic wives are thought to have paid thousands of dollars to rabbis to arrange for physical pressure to be brought to bear on their husbands.

Portugal is to host key Nato exercises

FROM ALISON ROBERTS IN LISBON

PORTUGAL, one of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's smallest members, this week hosts one of Nato's largest peace-support exercises.

The Portuguese military is heading two of the five Iberian components of Operation Strong Resolve, a joint exercise starting today and ending on March 21, in which Nato for the first time simulates simultaneous crises in two regions. In Norway, Nato troops will be playing their traditional role of defending a member state, while in the Iberian peninsula 30,000 men and women will practise an operation to separate warring factions in a state where central authority has collapsed.

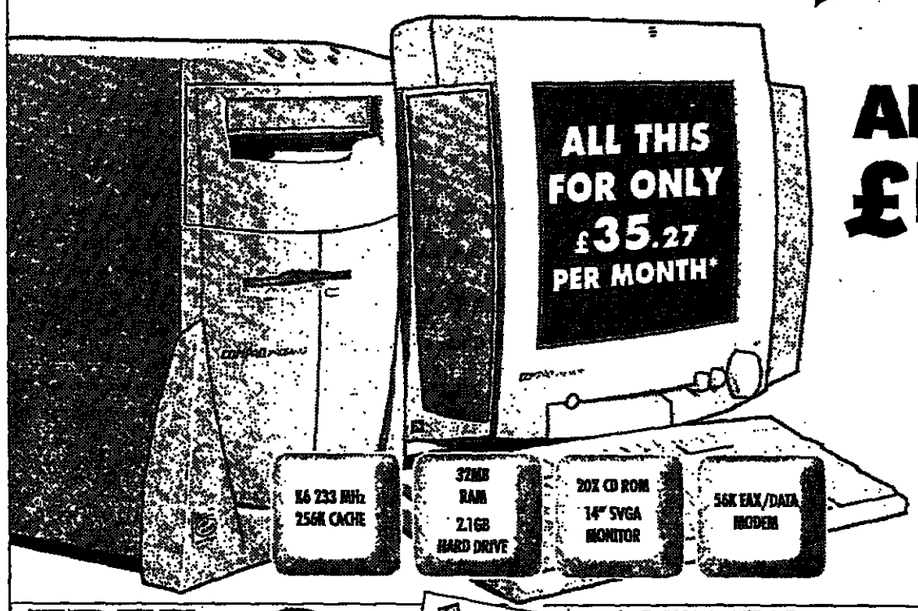
Among the 6,000 air, sea and land personnel stationed in Portugal will be one Romanian battalion and a Hungarian platoon, which are taking part under the Partnership for Peace programme endorsed at the Madrid summit last year.

"This is important both for Nato and Portugal," said Lieutenant-Colonel Fario Martins, a Nato spokesman. "The first part is more to do with integrating the forces – trying to deal with each other. Then comes the peace-support operation."

António Guterres, the Prime Minister, welcomed the choice of Portugal to host the manoeuvres as "the results of prestige acquired in operations in former Yugoslavia", in which its troops participated last year. His Socialist Government last month gave a positive response to a US request to use its air base in the Azores for possible missions to bomb Iraqi missile sites.

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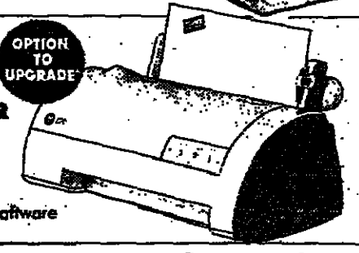
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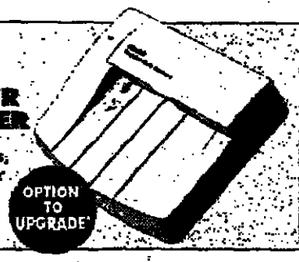
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Kohl's notion of Christian Europe leaves Turks turning to Mecca

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

Does Germany want Europe to be a Christian club? That suggestion was expressed at the weekend by Mesut Yilmaz, the German-educated Turkish Prime Minister, who seems determined to break much porcelain before Thursday's European Union conference in London. Turkey is invited to this talking shop for prospective members of the EU and if Mr Yilmaz comes — at present he is refusing to attend — sparks will fly between him and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor.

Last week Mr Yilmaz argued that Germany's favouring of Central European entry was an echo of *lebensraum*, Hitler's expansionist policy in the East. That touched a nerve in Bonn, which has accused the Turkish leader of running amok. Relations, in other words, are abysmal.

Herr Kohl exposed himself to this kind of wrangle, and worse, when he embarked on a strategy destined to split Europe into insiders and outsiders. The German leader is seen as the driving force behind economic and monetary union and the eastward enlargement of the EU. For years he has been able to sit out EU crises; he is the master of fudge. Now he is cast as the man who divided the sheep from the goats, and the goats are so angry they are ready to butt him. Will Germany swing suddenly against Italian participation in EMU? If so, another goat will soon be stamping its hooves.

The Turkish charges against Herr Kohl are overstated, but their question about the Christian club demands an answer. The issue is pressing, not only because of the imminent start of enlargement talks, but also because of domestic politics.

On March 26 the German parliament will consider a Bill intended to grant foreigners an automatic right to German citizenship if their families have lived in Germany for two generations. This applies above all to the two million Turks in Germany. The Chancellor is firmly opposed to any such change.

Present citizenship rules draw on the spirit of the 1913 Imperial Naturalisation Act which grants citizenship from parent to child on the basis of bloodline rather than birthplace. Many Free Democrats are ready to vote with the Social Democrats against the Chancellor. He could thus lose the vote; his Government, stumbling through its final six months before elections, may buckle.

The treatment of Turks within Germany is an indication of how the Chancellor really views Ankara's place in Europe. Turks — even the third-generation children who speak better German than their schoolmates — can become German citizens only if they surrender their Turkish citizenship.

The result is that many Turks really do feel, even after 30 or 40 years of paying taxes in Germany, that they are still "guests" who are there on sufferance. Their career chances are throttled. One looks in vain for Turkish newsreaders, trade union leaders, museum directors, even postmen.

The overwhelming majority stays on the straight and narrow but is susceptible to the blandishments of Refah, the Islamic Welfare Party. Because Turks are denied the possibility of a German identity, because Turkey is far away, they are open to attempts to give them a firm Islamic identity.

In Berlin, the religious revival has encouraged a parallel economy: Turks live in their districts, shop in their shops, go to Turkish doctors and Turkish travel agencies.

"Europe was born as a result of the Greek miracle," Ernest Renan wrote. "It grew with the Greek-Latin culture, experienced a Renaissance and is Christian."

Peyami Safa, the Turkish writer, asked whether under the Renan definition the Turks had any chance of being considered European not only geographically but also in terms of shared values. Ataturk, founder of the Turkish republic, believed firmly in Turkey's European future. Herr Kohl seems to read Renan more narrowly. The Turks are being treated as an alien presence in a reunited Germany concerned above all with its national destiny within a Europe of its own making.

Bavaria covers up death of schoolgirl

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

JULIA WATLING, a warm lively 12-year-old, threw her school bag into the minibus and clambered to the back ready for the trip home from St Thomas Convent School. She never arrived.

Jammed against a faulty door in the overcrowded bus, she fell out as the vehicle rounded a corner. The girl was dragged along the road and died of head injuries an hour later on the kerbside.

The tragedy could have happened anywhere — where schools try to skimp on transport costs. However, Julia, a Briton, died in Bavaria, the Roman Catholic province of southern Germany. The church remains a powerful force there and casts a protective cloak around its flock. The result has been an unseemly eagerness to suppress criticism of St Thomas Convent School, which is supported by the Diocese of Augsburg.

There has been no public debate about school safety standards because to do so would put a renowned Catholic school in an awkward position. The files have been set aside. "There's not a lot we can achieve now for our daughter," says Derek Watling. "But for us this is unfinished business. There are serious issues involved."

Mr Watling, 48, an occupational therapist, moved with his family from Gloucestershire to Bavaria, to the rural village of Jettingen, after spotting a hospital job offer three years ago. In September 1996, Julia started school at St Thomas in Wettenhausen. The accident happened one week into term.

The school Volkswagen minibus, owned by the convent, was 15 years old. Only two of the passenger seatbelts functioned and one was wrongly fitted. There was a maximum of eight places — Julia was the ninth passenger.

> "There's not a lot we can achieve for our daughter, but for us this is unfinished business."

The driver did not have a driving licence suitable for the transportation of children. He had received no instruction in the safety rules or precautions. The road testing of the bus — that is, the German equivalent of the MoT — was not geared to its use as a regular means of transport for schoolchildren. But the critical flaw was the sliding door. It had obviously caused problems for some time. A worker from the convent had welded a metal plate onto the inside to prevent it sliding open. On the day in question the children rattled the door in an attempt to open it. Having failed, they climbed over the front seat. The driver set off and appears to have taken a corner too quickly. The door suddenly slid open and Julia fell to her death. The police recommended that three people be charged with manslaughter through negligence: the driver, the head of the day-care centre at the covent, and a 69-year-old Mother Superior. According to the prosecutor's files — a compilation of the evidence gathered by the police — the driver did not check the door nor did he object to the bus being overcrowded. Yet the charges against him were dropped. The reason, Julia's parents believe, is that he would have spoken out against the management of the convent. The driver, despite being let off the hook, was in deep shock. He took to drugs and in August 1997 died of an overdose.

The prosecutor also decided to set aside charges against the day-care centre head since there was "insufficient evidence" that he was responsible for the condition of the minibus. The Mother Superior was fined for negligence — a fact that went unreported in the local press. She was required to pay £2,000 in legal costs and contribute £1,000 to a charity. This, and the other decisions of the prosecutor, were kept from the parents and their solicitor.

Five months later, after some pressure from the solicitor, Reinhard Metzger, the prosecutor explained to the Watling family how the case had been closed. Neither the Mother Superior nor the police will comment.

The Watlings are left with a sense of betrayal by a judicial system which has shown that it is vulnerable to local and political influence. They risk being branded *Nestbeschmutzer*, a term of abuse for those who upset the community in which they live.

Kathy Watling says: "It could have been a German child — I hope that the Germans will see this. If at least the Bavarians start to look again at their child safety procedures, then something may have been achieved."



Julia Watling, who died when a faulty door in an overcrowded school bus slid open

Priebke to appeal over life sentence

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ERICH PRIEBKE, the former Nazi SS captain accused of Italy's worst wartime atrocity, vowed yesterday to take his case to the European Court of Human Rights after being given a life sentence at the weekend by a military appeal court.

The sentence, for his part in the murder of 335 Italian men and boys in 1944, was greeted with loud applause by relatives of the victims. Lawyers said Priebke, 85, would remain under house arrest because of his age and frail health. Karl Hass, 85, a former SS major charged with involvement in the murders, was also given life — and is expected to avoid prison, too.

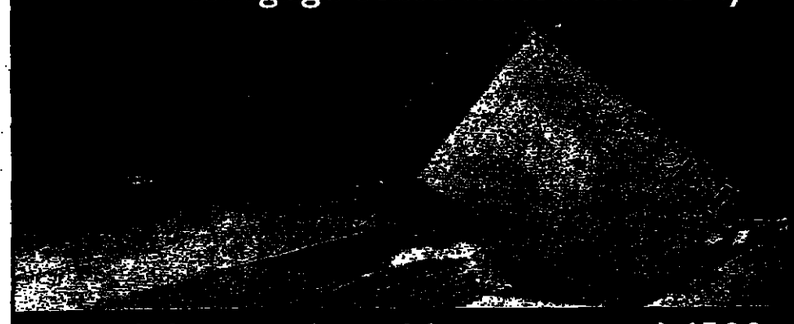
Priebke was extradited four years ago from Argentina. Put on trial in May 1996, he was acquitted because of mitigating circumstances, including his age.

He was rearrested after a public outcry and in July was sentenced to 15 years, cut to five because of the time he had spent in jail. Hass was given ten years and eight months. On Saturday the sentences were increased.

The victims were rounded up by Nazis as a reprisal for a 1994 partisan ambush in Rome, taken to the Ardeatine Caves, on the Appian Way, and shot in the head.

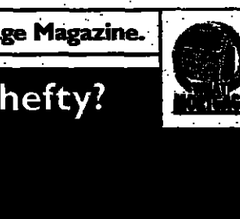
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Jiang: talks on how to fight separatists

Warning by China of 3.5m jobs loss

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

THE prospect of millions more unemployed people roaming China's streets as Beijing deepens economic reform dominated the annual session of parliament yesterday with the announcement that there were likely to be 3.5 million layoffs this year.

Many of the millions from the bureaucracy and money-losing state-run industries have called foreign businesses or joint ventures in Beijing in the past few days to ask about employment prospects.

Analysts note that such layoffs could risk serious social tension. Yet while there have been demonstrations — yesterday there was a third public protest outside the Great Hall of the People since parliament, the National People's Congress, began its annual session last Thursday — these have not coalesced into nationwide protests. One reason is that independent trade unions are banned, with union activists in jail, lying low or exiled.

President Jiang Zemin, mindful of national security, met ethnic minority delegates at the weekend and called for greater efforts to fight separatists. He urged officials in Xinjiang and Tibet to "oppose any activity aimed at splitting the motherland".

Feast with dragon, page 22
Leading article, page 23

Heroes of My Lai massacre honoured at last

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THIRTY years after the My Lai massacre, three Americans who turned their guns on fellow soldiers in order to save the lives of Vietnamese civilians have received recognition as heroes.

The Soldier's Medal, the highest award for bravery not involving conflict with an enemy, has been awarded to Hugh Thompson and Lawrence Colburn, and posthumously to their comrade Glenn Andreotta, who was killed in battle three weeks after the massacre.

During the medal ceremony in Washington Major-General Michael Ackerman said that it was a shameful chapter, but the three medal winners had rejected the example of other American soldiers and set the standard for all soldiers to follow. "We finally recognise these men for their heroic actions," the general said.

About 450 civilians — women, children and old men — were killed in a frenzy of slaughter and sexual assaults, including at least one gang rape, as American troops swept in and around the hamlet of My Lai on March 16, 1968. No Viet Cong forces were encountered.

Mr Thompson, then 24, was a helicopter pilot whose mission was to draw enemy fire. Mr Colburn and Andreotta were his crew. As Mr Thompson recalled, there was shooting, there were piles of bodies in a ditch, but the dead were not soldiers. "Every time we made a pass there were more bodies," he said. "I saw one incident where an American just walked up to a woman and blew her away."

The trio saw ten women and children cowering in a bunker. Mr Thompson put the helicopter down between them and a squad of advancing Americans. His gun drawn, he asked a lieutenant if he could get the civilians out. "With a hand grenade," the officer replied.

Mr Thompson said: "Hold your people right here. I think we can do better than that." He called in another helicopter to rescue the civilians. With Mr Colburn and Mr Andreotta, he provided weapons cover in case their fellow Americans started shooting.

Mr Thompson's medal citation for heroism "above and beyond the call of duty" was brutally candid. It said he landed his helicopter "in the line of fire between fleeing Vietnamese civilians and pursuing American troops to prevent their murder".

The episode contributed significantly to undermining domestic support for the war. Lieutenant William Calley, commander of Charlie Company, was found guilty of murder, but his life sentence was reduced to 20 years and the army allowed him to serve three days in prison followed by three years of house arrest.

RON EDMONDS / AP



Hugh Thompson, above left, and Lawrence Colburn during the medals presentation at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Washington and, below, Lieutenant William Calley and some of the victims of the 1968 massacre





Suharto denounces IMF and digs in over economy

FROM DAVID WATTS IN JAKARTA

PRESIDENT SUHARTO yesterday denounced International Monetary Fund reforms for Indonesia — despite having signed an agreement that would bring more than $40 billion (£24 billion) in assistance.

The IMF has already delayed the next $3 billion aid tranche, saying it wants to review further the country's economy. Last night the President, 76, left little room for manoeuvre as he told members of the National People's Assembly, at his suburban home to nominate him again for the presidency, that the IMF's requirements violated the constitution.

The article he cited provides that the economy be run collectively for the benefit of the whole nation. At the heart of the IMF prescription are concerns that it is currently run too much for the benefit of the Suharto family and cronies. The authorities appear to fear that the IMF does not understand the need to move slowly to untangle decades of economic practice. When students tackled a senior military man last week, he said Indonesia did not want to become another Russia.

The fund delayed its economic reassessment in the hope that the President's attitude might change after interventions by the United States and the European Union, and a further slide in the rupiah's value.

Regional experts are concerned that the standoff will do severe damage to the Indonesian economy and prolong the lack of confidence in the area and its economic future. Already thousands of Indonesians are voting with their feet as the country waits to see who will be in the Cabinet after President Suharto's acclamation for a seventh term of office tomorrow. Any doubts about the President's determination were put aside at the weekend when it was revealed that he would be given extra powers — including the possible suspension of parliament — to ensure stability.

In Singapore and Malaysia, there is something approaching panic over the possible arrival of hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Hostage release move fails

Moscow: A campaign to secure the release of two British aid workers kidnapped in Chechnya has failed (Richard Beeston writes). Speaking on the eve of a visit to Britain, President Maskhadov said an ultimatum to abductors and the efforts of police had failed to locate and free Camilla Carr and Jon James.

Korean 'curfew'

Police and "military forces" were said to have exchanged gunfire in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, South Korean newspapers reported. There were also unconfirmed stories of a curfew.

Papers missing

Washington: The FBI is investigating the disappearance of highly classified documents intended for Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, from an office near her suite in the State Department.

Jail shootings

Davao: Police shot dead eight prisoners holding five women hostage in a southern Philippine jail near here, but one of the women was stabbed to death by her captors during the police attack. *(Reuters)*

Divers charge

Brisbane: An Australian diving company is to be charged over the disappearance of a US couple left behind on a trip to the Great Barrier Reef. Thomas and Eileen Lonergan are presumed dead. *(Reuters)*

Killer avalanche

Kabul: An avalanche hit a snow-covered village in the Salang area north of the Afghan capital Kabul, killing at least 70 people. Local officials said some people were still missing. *(Reuters)*

Free to talk

Beijing: A man with three tongues has had two removed surgically so that he can eat and speak normally for the first time in 20 years, Xinhua news agency said. One tongue was 13in long. *(Reuters)*

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Cosy coverage of ANC by Irish press baron dismays journalists


O'Reilly: vocal support for government policy

The Argus newspapers owned by Tony O'Reilly are reluctant to resist government bullying, **R. W. Johnson** writes from Johannesburg

THE notion that Tony O'Reilly's Irish Independent Group might be regarded as a saviour for ailing newspapers would be greeted with cynicism by South African journalists and commentators, who have watched the progress of the old Argus group of newspapers since he took it over four years ago.

Almost without exception the papers which the group publishes in South Africa's three biggest cities have lost circulation since the takeover. There is insistent criticism that for all his reputed billion-pound wealth, Mr O'Reilly has failed to capitalise his papers adequately. His company's recent announcement that it was going to take a contribution holiday from the employees' pension fund, though legal, has met with an outraged response from journalists and print unions, who have protested with placards reading, "Dublin your money at our expense?"

The takeover led almost immediately to the resignation of Richard Steyn, Editor of *The Star*, who felt that the group had no interest in editorial independence. In part, this worry derived from the group's philosophy of "virtual publishing" which means, essentially, getting rid of as many journalists as possible and then deciding through centralised managers what packaged bits of news will go interchangeably into which paper. Most journalists believe that the quality of the papers has fallen and only the swingeing cuts in staff have allowed them to remain even modestly profitable. Even so, the group's share price has fallen by a third in a year.

Mr O'Reilly has attracted even sharper criticism because of what is felt to be his unhealthily close relationship with the ANC Government. He began by appointing an advisory board stacked with ANC supporters and has been vocal in his support for all manner of ANC causes and watchwords. To run the group in South Africa he has brought in his own biographer, Ivan Fallon, formerly the ultra-Thatcherite business writer on *The Sunday Times* but now a born-again supporter of the ANC, affirmative action and the "national democratic revolution". Among journalists Mr Fallon ("Ivan the Fallible") is disliked for his refusal to stand up to the Government's attempts to bully the press into uncritical support.

This has led to open accusations that the Independent papers are virtually *imbongis* (praise singers), even that they are neglecting to publish news likely to embarrass the Government. In the past week, for example, a scandal has broken out over the ANC's involvement in a quack Aids cure known as Virodene — which actually has toxic waste as one of its ingredients. ANC leaders tried to push approval for Virodene through the Cabinet against the furious protests of the medical profession because, it now appears, the ANC had been promised 6 per cent of Virodene's shares. The Independent papers have played down the whole matter, neglecting even to cover key press conferences.

Similarly when another story broke recently over the connection of leading ANC politicians to a series of bank holdups, the Independent group failed to mention the subject at all. On the other hand the group's papers run a regular column by Jon Qwelane, a black journalist whose every article is a tirade of anti-white racism. The opposition parties regularly attack the Independent group for its "supine" and "pusillanimous" behaviour.

None of this has really worked. The ANC is not mollified by these concessions and it is striking that those sections of the press that have taken a more robust attitude to the Government have fared better in circulation.

No one is quite sure what Mr O'Reilly is in it for. Some argue that the man who made his money out of baked beans and soups is simply an old-style press baron to whom papers are vanity toys. But this does not make much sense for a man who is only an occasional visitor to the country and whose real commitment to it still seems uncertain.

Spirit world assails embattled Mugabe with omens of doom

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

THE spirits of the dead have joined the political and economic forces that threaten to overwhelm President Mugabe, reports in Harare said yesterday.

The independent *Sunday Standard* said Mr Mugabe had become deeply anxious since being told last year by the country's most influential spirit medium, who lives in the Hurungwe tribal area in northern Zimbabwe, that his style of governing had offended ancestral spirits and that he was in danger of being ousted from office.

Quoting only "good authority", the newspaper said that the medium chosen to host the spirit of Mbuya Nehanda, a woman executed by a British firing squad in 1896 for leading a rebellion against white occupation, had told Mr Mugabe to make amends.

In a country where the spirit world is believed by most people to bring death, sickness and ruin, as well as good things, Mr Mugabe would be ill advised to scorn the warnings. He has been condemned since the mid-1980s by Ndebele mediums for failing to show contrition for the brutal repression by security forces deployed to crush a small rebellion in the western province of Matabeleland.

Yesterday Eddison Zvobgo, a government minister without portfolio, apologised for atrocities the army committed against civilians during that period. The *Standard* quoted him as saying he had been saddened by a report compiled by the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace and the Legal Resources Foundation on the deaths. Mr Zvobgo said: "I did not know, and many people did not know — now I am being honest to myself and I want to sleep well — let me say nobody can be proud about what happened, and for the cleansing of my chest, let me say that I am very sorry about what happened."

The Standard said that in January Mr Mugabe had held a meeting in the northern town of Chinhoyi with nine tribal chiefs, also regarded as being well connected to the spirit world, for advice on how to arrest the decline in his political fortunes. Two of the chiefs, from his home district of Zvimba 30 miles west of Harare, were long-standing consultants to the President, the newspaper said. Mr Mugabe defied protocol by excluding local ruling party and state officials from the meeting.

Christopher Chingozho, a district administrator, confirmed that the meeting had taken place. But, he said, "I cannot divulge the deliberations since the meeting was a closed one".

Traditionalist observers have taken a keen interest in lightning that felled a tree in the President's official residence on Tuesday last week, and the powerful gust of wind that came close causing the aircraft he was in to crash shortly before it landed in Mozambique two days earlier.

For the first time since he came to power in 1980, calls for Mr Mugabe to resign are being voiced as the country slides deeper into economic crisis, most of it blamed on his intervention.

Last week he suffered the humiliation of seeing the country paralysed for two days as thousands of workers ignored his threats and obeyed the national labour movement's strike call. Mr Mugabe said that calls for his resignation were being made by traitors.

MURAD SEZER / AP


A demonstrator helps his injured friend after police used teargas to break up an International Women's Day protest that was staged in central Istanbul yesterday

Women unite to fight Taleban sex 'apartheid'

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

WOMEN politicians in Britain and around the world yesterday seized the occasion of International Women's Day to highlight the plight of women in Afghanistan.

Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, and Emma Bonino, the European Human Rights Commissioner, condemned the discrimination against women and their exclusion by law from Afghan society. Ms Short called this "nothing short of gender apartheid". She announced a £7.5 million aid package to help women in Afghanistan.

Signora Bonino, who was briefly arrested in Kabul while visiting a women's hospital last October, said that Afghan women who used to be doctors and engineers were now "subjected to the whim of a group of lunatic men".

Masoumeh Ebtekar, Iran's vice-president for environmental affairs, told Afghan women that their sisters in Iran were "listening to your suppressed cries".

When the Taleban took control of Kabul more than a year ago, the group forbade women from working except in the medical sector, closed girls' schools and forced them to wear the *burqa*, the head-to-toe veil.

The Taleban defended its record on women's rights at the weekend, saying that Afghan women had preserved their dignity whereas Western women served as mere objects of lust. A spokesman said Signora Bonino was merely covering up her own humiliation at the hands of men by attacking the Taleban. "Women are humiliated in the West, where they are used only for sedating men's lust and are prey to an animal way of life," he said.

In Burma, Aung San Suu Kyi, the Opposition leader and Nobel peace laureate, marked the day with a call for equality for women and an end to discrimination around the world. President Tarar of Pakistan said that he was determined to ensure women's full integration into the mainstream of society. In Israel, women's groups launched a campaign for equal pay. India's Bharatiya Janata Party said it would reserve a third of the seats in parliament for women.

☐ **Istanbul:** Police fired teargas shells to disperse a demonstration of 1,500 people organised by the left-wing Labour Party to mark International Women's Day. The police apparently intervened when some groups started to wave the banners of the Kurdish rebel group, PKK. *(AP)*

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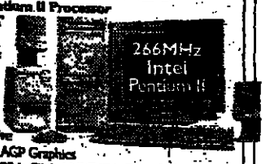
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Unlocking the secrets of dyslexia



As European Brain Day nears, **Anjana Ahuja** looks at new neurological research which suggests that there is a physical basis for dyslexia

To read this sentence, your brain should perform a faultlessly choreographed routine. The words are first registered by the eye, in the primary visual cortex at the back of the brain. The neurological baton is then handed to the angular gyrus, which transforms the abstract jumble of images into recognisable words. The final flourish comes courtesy of Wernicke's area, towards the front of the brain, which deduces meaning.

In dyslexics, however, these neural paths to enlightenment are not so well-trodden. According to a study by scientists at Yale University, published last week, the final twist in the pathway leads not to Wernicke's area, involved in the ability to understand words, but Broca's area, which deals with speech. This hiccup in brain circuitry, say the researchers, proves that reading presents serious problems for some people that cannot be attributed to low intelligence. It provides a genuine physical basis for dyslexia, the existence of which has been disputed.

This revelation was made using functional brain imaging, which measures blood flow as a marker of brain activity. Over the past couple of decades, sophisticated techniques have allowed scientists to investigate precisely how much of our lives is controlled by our grey matter. The outpouring of results has stunned even neuroscientists — not only does this most complex organ hold the key to diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, but it also underpins our sense of identity.

As shown in the dyslexia study, language and communication rely on distinct neural pathways; there is growing evidence that aspects of personality, including depression and social ability, are determined by the balance of chemicals in the brain; that the intellectual decline associated with old age can be delayed by doing a few sums each day; that neuroses and addictions such as eating disorders are best treated by focusing on the mind rather than the body.

That is why specialists have chosen to instigate a European Brain Day. The event, co-ordinated by the European Dana Alliance for the Brain and chaired by Professor Colin Blakemore from Oxford University, will take place for the first time on March 18, to coincide with National Science Week. Events around the country will focus on serious issues such as ageing, artificial intelligence, brain damage and consciousness, and lighter ones such as improving memory and optical illusions.

The dyslexia study has excited scientists because it shows that poor reading skills can be characterised by a distinctive neurobiological signature. The work was conducted by the husband-and-wife team of Dr Sally Shaywitz and Dr Bennett Shaywitz at the Yale Centre for Learning and Attention. They gave a set of tasks to 29 people with dyslexia, and 32 people who had no trouble with reading. While the tasks were carried out, their brains were scanned using magnetic resonance imaging.

Initially, the volunteers merely had to recognise letters. Then they were asked whether certain letters, such as G and C, rhymed. The next hurdle was to decide whether nonsense words such as jeat and lete rhymed, an exercise that many dyslexics find difficult. Using magnetic resonance imaging to peer into the brain, the Yale researchers were able to distinguish the startling difference in the way that dyslexics and non-dyslexics handled reading tasks.

The results raise a wealth of questions. For example, it is known that some children with the condition can improve their reading, suggesting either that the dormant neural pathway can somehow be switched on, or an alternative route can be accessed. But for others, books remain a frustrating enigma, implying that suitable pathways remain blocked. One implication, say specialists, is that brain scans could be employed to tailor teaching methods for dyslexic children.

One fascinating window on the brain is to examine what happens in the case of localised damage. Certain faculties, such as memory, may be diminished while others remain unscathed. One of the leading practitioners in this field is Professor Antonio Damasio, at the University of Iowa. "Provided it is guided by an appropriate hypothesis, the study of disturbed brains is one of the best means of shedding light on its functions," he says. His own research focuses on how brain injury interferes with emotions. "It is a fact that certain people with brain damage will not be able to live as full an emotional life as they did before," he says.

While scientists such as Professor Damasio try to map the brain, another school of neurologists is trying to unravel what happens when injury first occurs. Professor Fausto Iannotti, head of neurology at Southampton University, is hoping that such an approach could help doctors to intervene in the crucial period just after injury. He is now applying for research grants. "There is a complex and mysterious chain of events that takes place between the initial injury and the final outcome that can last for several months," Professor Iannotti says. It is the secrets of this neurological "black box", as he puts it, that could decide whether brain damage could be arrested or even prevented.

Most people, he adds, do not realise that the brain can take months to stabilise after an accident, and that the first ten days after injury are crucial. Even simple steps, such as enabling a victim to breathe properly, can save lives. "A lack of oxygen to the brain can make certain injuries a lot worse," says Professor Iannotti, who, as part of European Brain Day, will be giving a public lecture.

It is known that the brain produces both beneficial and harmful chemicals when it is hurt; pharmaceutical companies are aiming to develop drugs that can stimulate the former and suppress the latter. One such drugs trial will be completed in the summer. Success will mean not only a moneyspinner for the companies but also a respite from the misery caused by brain injuries. Professor Iannotti says: "Stroke is the biggest cause of disability worldwide, and the effects are devastating. Our research may be able to find ways of influencing the outcome of brain injury, and change people's lives for the better."

● *For more information about Professor Iannotti's lecture at Southampton University, call 01703-593212; for other events, call 0171-935 3748.*

Genes dictate response to diet

PRESCRIPTIVE advice about diet, fashionable for the past 20 years, is wasted on most people. This is not because they ignore it, though they do, but because their genes, and not their devotion to the diet, determine how they respond.

Two weeks ago, Dr Ronald Krauss of Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in California told the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting that very low-fat diets reduce heart-attack risks in only a third of the people who adopt them. The rest fail to respond to the diets, or may even suffer increased risk because of the genes they carry.

Coincidentally, a team at the Dunn Clinical Nutrition Centre in Cambridge has reached similar conclusions about the health benefits of drinking tea. Tea is supposed to reduce the risks of heart disease, but two earlier studies, by Dr Hester Vorster of Potchesfstroom University in South Africa, and Dr Sheila Bingham of the Dunn, had failed to show any changes in blood lipids or clotting factors. The conclusion was that tea was not a health elixir after all. Aware of the possible confounding effects of genes, they decided to reanalyse the data. Blood samples had been taken from the 65 volunteers who took part in the original study. From these, the team, led by Dr Alexandre Loktionov, examined variants of a gene responsible for producing a protein called apolipoprotein E (ApoE).

ApoE is an important protein, responsible for ferrying cholesterol through the bloodstream, and linked to both Alzheimer's disease and heart disease. The gene for ApoE occurs in various forms — the Dunn team found four variants among the volunteers — and it turns out that which one you have controls how you respond to tea.

In the people with the commonest variant, carried by 45 out of the 65, tea reduced the levels of the protective form of cholesterol. This would, if anything, increase their risks of a heart attack. In the other groups, there was no change in cholesterol levels. More interesting was the effect on a blood coagulation factor called PAI-1 (plasminogen activator inhibitor-1). People with the commonest variant showed no change in PAI-1 when drinking tea, but among the seven volunteers with a rarer variant there was a significant reduction. In these people, drinking tea would confer a benefit, by making their blood less likely to form clots and cause heart attacks. This group also showed a significant reduction in another blood component linked to heart attacks.



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

The conclusion reached by the team in the *British Journal of Nutrition* is that tea-drinking can be a benefit, but only if you happen to belong to the 10 per cent of the population that carries this particular genetic variant. For the rest of us, it may be the cup that cheers, but it is unlikely to defer a heart attack. The wider conclusion, drawn out by Dr Christine Williams of Reading University in a commentary in the journal, is that dietary studies are unlikely to be useful unless they include genetic information too. Sample sizes will also have to be increased to distinguish the contribution made by genetic variation, she says.

The results, and those of Dr Krauss, indicate why healthy-eating diets fail to make much impact. If genes determine the individual's response to a diet or a food, then the value of a population-wide prescription offered by the well-meaning becomes even more questionable. But will this stop them offering it?

Star that waxes and wanes

EVEN through the most powerful of telescopes, stars are just dots, with no discernible detail. But now a remarkable telescope built at Cambridge University has been used to watch a distant star swell and shrink. The star, called R Leonis, is more than 300 light years away, and has been observed for two years by astronomers using the Cambridge Optical Aperture Synthesis Telescope.

This instrument combines light from four small mirrors, each 16 centimetres across, and six metres apart — thus simulating a telescope with a six-metre aperture. The team found that R Leonis, a star no more than twice as massive as the Sun, varies between 450 times the diameter of the Sun and 600 times, expanding at a rate of 10 kilometres per second, then shrinking again. Dr Chris Haniff, a member of the team, calls this behaviour "outrageous".

The observations, to be published in *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, show the remarkable power of aperture synthesis, and may help to explain how stars like R Leonis do it. They may be throwing off material as they reach maximum size, in a process which slowly shrinks them until they are no more than to a tiny fraction of the Sun's mass. Alternatively, the surface of the stars may be boiling like a pan of water, throwing off great blobs of material from time to time.

Early warning for fat adults



THE chances of becoming a fat adult can be predicted from the age at which a child is thinnest, according to Dr Robert Whitaker, of the Children's Hospital Medical Centre in Cincinnati. This moment, which occurs around the age of five or six, is called the point of adiposity rebound.

Babies start chubby, then gradually get slimmer until they begin to put on weight again. Their age at this unrecognised rite-of-passage determines whether they will grow into fat adults or not. Dr Whitaker has studied 390 people born between 1965 and 1971, measuring them several times during childhood and once as adults.

In *Pediatrics*, he records that those who reach adiposity rebound before they turn five are much more likely to become fat in adulthood. "An early age of rebound was associated with an increased risk of adult obesity regardless of how fat the child was at the point of rebound or how fat the parents were," he says. But whether this is genetic, or the result of parental pressure to eat, remains unknown. Nor is it clear that attempting to delay the rebound would reduce the risk of adult obesity, but it might.

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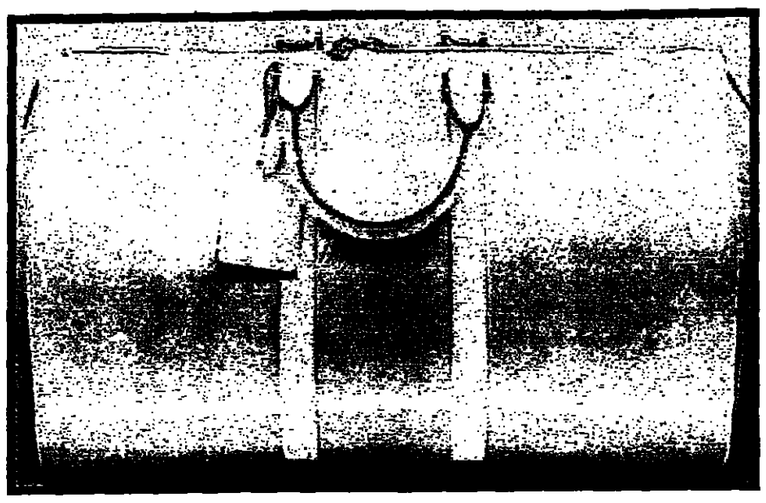
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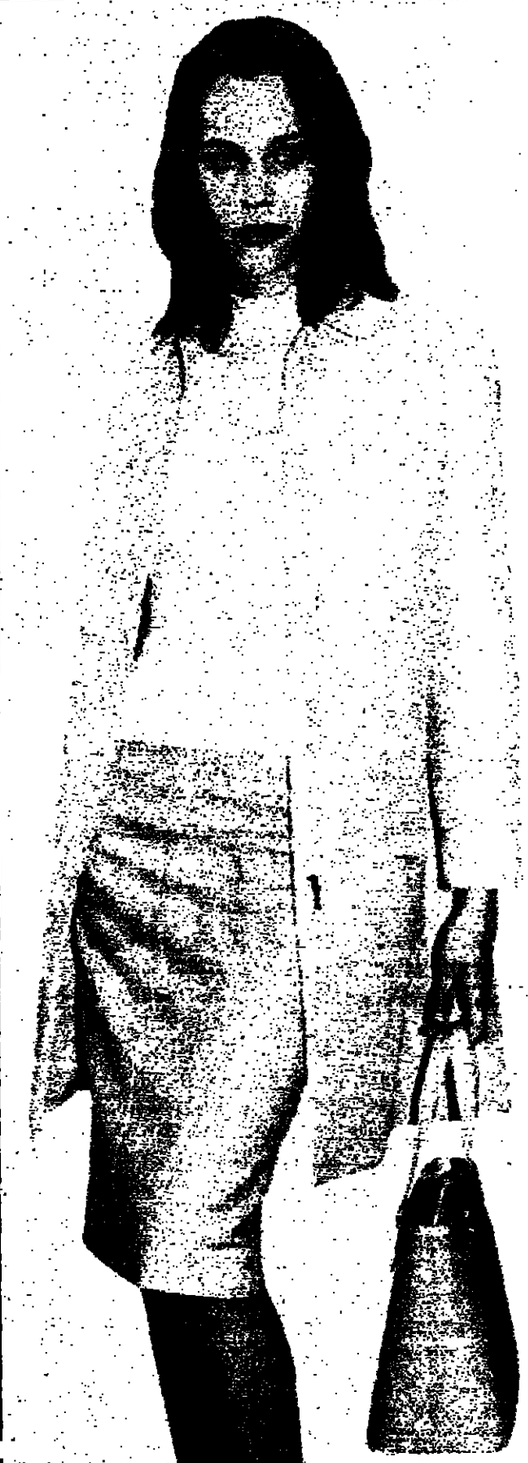
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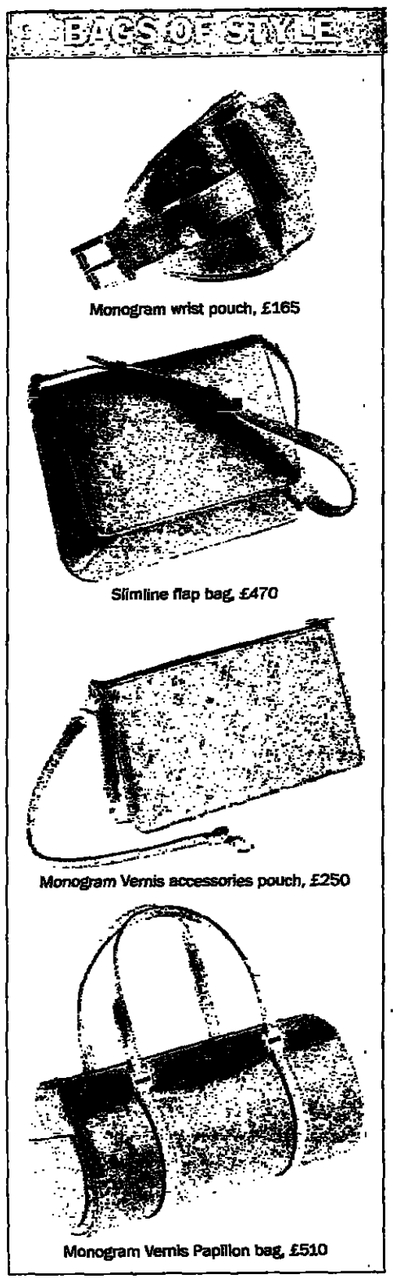
Status symbols







Clockwise from top left: baby-blue Mercer barrel bag, £990; baby-blue high-heeled monogram-clasp slingbacks, £200; structured cotton bomber jacket, £735; cubed handbags, £630; crocodile bucket bag, £4,150. *All clothes are available from Louis* Vuitton's new shop, 17-18 New Bond Street, London W1, 0171-399 4050

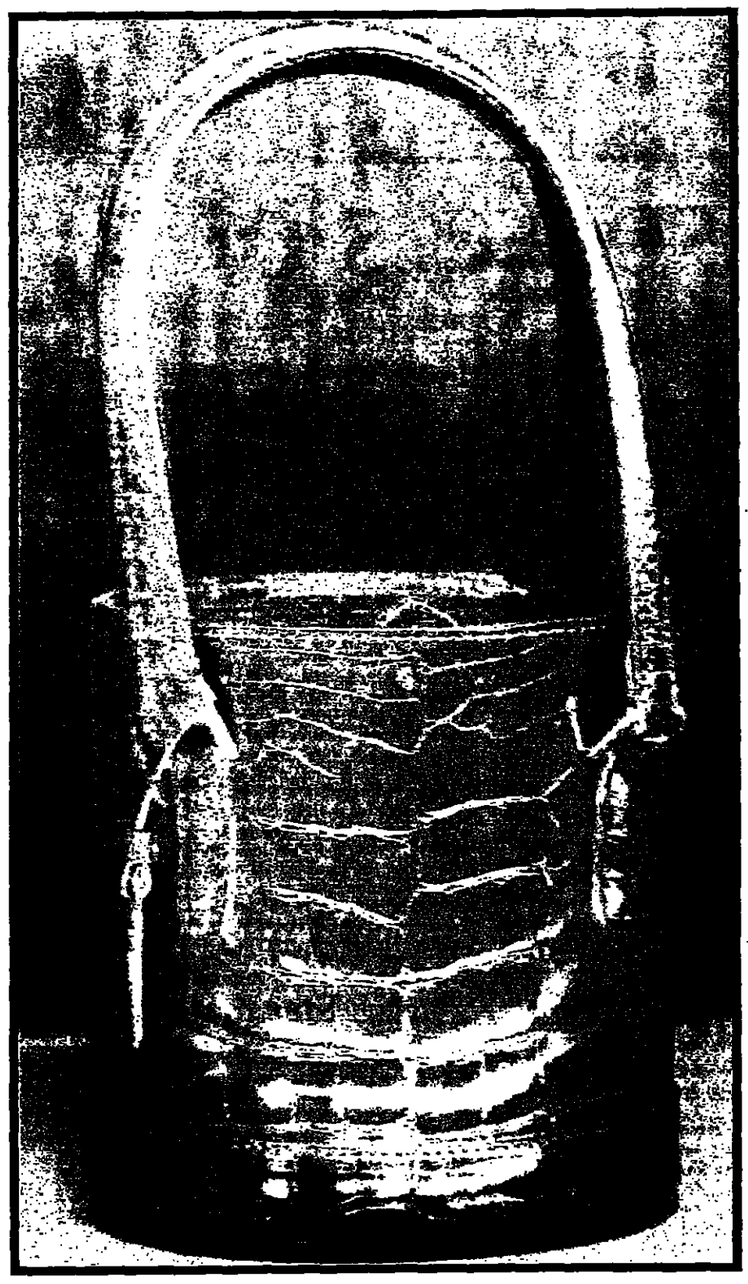


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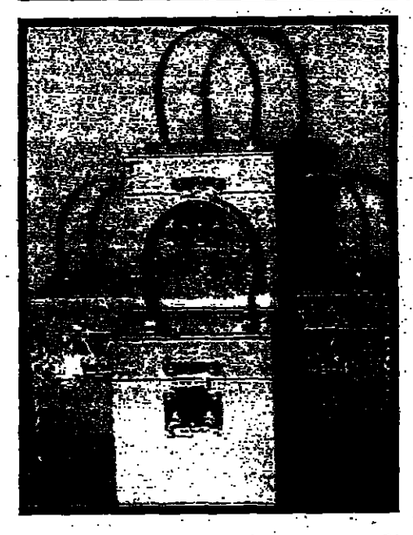
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Style Editor **Grace Bradberry** on the designer hired to turn Louis Vuitton into a symbol of Post-Modern chic

Later today the New York designer Marc Jacobs will saunter down a catwalk in an *echoing hall on the Paris* outskirts, at the end of the first Louis Vuitton catwalk show.

The debut has been long-awaited. Jacobs, an insouciant Manhattanite, was appointed artistic director of Vuitton in January 1997. To some in the *fashion world it seemed an* unlikely marriage: the creator of grunge paired with a luxury goods company, so pukka it has never held a sale.

That, of course, is the point. He was hired, ultimately, by Bernard Arnault, the *éminence-grise of LVMH, and the* man who installed John Galliano at Dior and Alexander McQueen at Givenchy. Though Arnault dislikes the comparison, Jacobs has effectively been hired to "do a Gucci", to transform a label *redolent of Cinzano Bianco in* airport lounges, into a symbol of Post-Modern chic. Unlike Galliano and McQueen, he does not have to reinvent a pre-existing style, but to originate one that will seduce fashionable society while somehow chiming with monogrammed trunks.

The rumours are that it has been an uneasy courtship. When Jacobs took the job, he described his vision of Louis Vuitton ready-to-wear as "an ultra-deluxe Army and Navy Store... If I decide it will just be an ashtray and a raincoat, that's what it will be." A year on, the first Jacobs-designed piece emerged: a plain cashmere scarf with a Louis Vuitton logo, costing £340.

A fortnight ago a new store opened in the Champs Elysées, followed by one last week in New Bond Street, each containing a capsule collection of spring/summer clothes as a precursor to the big autumn/winter catwalk collection.

I met Jacobs at the first of these openings. He was perched on a sofa in front of his first Louis Vuitton collection. The clothes, some of which are shown here, are sleek, sports-inspired, but fundamentally conservative. On the zips and the little gold tassels on the shoes are the LV logo. Jacobs seems defensive. "It's going to go a lot further," he says. "*Our first runway* collection will be a full-on concept of what I really think is luxurious and modern."

Drawing him out on this is difficult, not least because our interview had been scheduled at the start of the party, when *the most privileged guests*



First show: Marc Jacobs

were touring the shop. Jacobs proves an accomplished schmoozer, his air of detachment evaporating whenever a "name" enters. Luc Besson arrives with Nastassja Kinski and he flips into giddy excitement — "*En-chan-tée!* I'm such a huge fan of yours," he tells Besson.

"Are you English?" asks Kinski. "No, I'm a New Yorker," says Jacobs. "American," she continues. "No, a *New Yorker*," says Jacobs. "It's really different."

In between a series of similar distractions, we talk about Jacobs's distinctively New York roots. His father, now dead, was an agent at the William Morris agency, and looked after the comedienne Joan Rivers. Jacobs grew up on the Upper West Side. His "liberal Jewish parents" — his words — were not especially style-conscious. "My mother has the worst taste of anybody in the world," says Jacobs, laughing. But his grandmother had enormous style — "*She had that philosophy that* it's much better to have one good thing than five mediocre things." Jacobs moved in with her when he was 15 — "We wanted to be together." Around the same time he got part-time work in a designer *clothes store.*

From school, he went on to the highly respected Parsons School of Design, where his graduation collection impressed a man named Robert Duffy, now his business manager. At 25, Jacobs landed a job at Perry Ellis, where he produced his now infamous "grunge" collection in autumn 1992, which won him an award but got him the sack. But Duffy persuaded Perry Ellis to buy a one-third stake in a new enterprise, Marc Jacobs International.

By the time a Louis Vuitton talent scout called in May 1996, Jacobs had shaken off the grunge label and was fêted in New York as the designer of ultra-luxe sportswear. Eight months later, Jacobs had signed to Louis Vuitton.

Jacobs has since had time to polish his soundbites, as in "We should constantly look for comfort, and beauty and sophistication," and "I just think what people wear is so much more interesting than what people don't wear," a clear statement that he does not intend to produce "show clothes" *à la* Galliano and McQueen. "Real women are not models and life is not a catwalk," he expounds. If it were, Jacobs would no doubt find it vulgar — a very Jacobs word. Earlier, I hear his reply to a French journalist who has the temerity to ask whether the Louis Vuitton clothes will sell. "I hope so," he exclaims. "It's a *vulgar waste if nobody buys.*"

Yet until now, the whole ethos of Louis Vuitton has been, in a sense, vulgar. It has been about flaunting wealth. While we are talking, a woman called Doris parades before him in a white raincoat.

Suddenly Jacobs turns to Duffy and emits a sound such as the chorus of a Greek tragedy might make. "Aye-yi-yi! The zipper is *gold*. It's supposed to be a *silver* zipper." In Jacobs's design world a gold zipper on a white coat is, well, vulgar.

There is still some friction between the *ancien régime* and Jacobs, something he as good as admits when he says: "I'm still operating under the same premise as Louis Vuitton, creating a luxury product. With time, there will be a marked difference between the *two collections. Particular* things are more important for Vuitton than for me.

"I have to create a parallel universe. What people love is *something practical and functional but with a status appeal* — by functional I mean that you can wear it." This distinction is necessary because the white raincoat cannot be dry-cleaned.

This afternoon, fashion editors from every leading publication will be able to see the extent to which the old Louis Vuitton and the Jacobs Louis Vuitton have diverged. They may also be able to judge whether we are seeing the emergence of a new Tom Ford.

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A grand revival: the life-changing salon has returned

The days of the society hostess are far from over. **Janine di Giovanni** goes salon-hopping with the new movers and shakers



HULTON-GETTY

A room with plenty of views: "The definition of a salon is a drawing room, a reception room, a periodic gathering of notable persons in the house of a society queen"

Every Monday morning Carole Stone wakes up in a state of delicious anticipation. "I open my eyes and think: Monday! My salon! I can't wait until tonight!"

Once a week, Stone throws opens the doors of her Covent Garden flat to 30 or more people — some of whom are strangers — who will consume somewhere between eight and 16 bottles of white wine and discuss "elevated" topics: Saddam Hussein; Algeria; is John Birt destroying the BBC?

Within five minutes of entering her home, she has introduced me to two documentary producers, a novelist and a former investigative journalist turned mental health campaigner, without skipping a beat. "This is Deborah Moggach, the author ... this is Peter Gill, who made the Clare Short documentary, this is Marjorie Wallace, who is the director of SANE ..."



Carole Stone: a natural hostess

Stone is a natural hostess; she never tires or mixes up names. Guests stay no more than two hours but may leave having met the one person, or gleaned the one vital piece of information, that changes the course of their lives. "I love it," she says. "The charm is that the doorbell goes, you don't know who it will be, and the art is to integrate them into whatever groups are forming. Squeezing someone in from a different world, then the bell goes again."

In recent years the grand days of the salon have been on the wane, replaced by the newest "in" restaurant or the latest exclusive drinking club as the focus for those wanting to raise their profile or their level of conversation (usually, it has to be said, the first at the expense of the latter).

Certain diehards, such as Sonia Melchett Sinclair, one of the country's last great literary hostesses, kept the flame burning (it was at one of her parties at her home in Chelsea that Anna Ford threw a glass of wine over Jonathan Aitken) but in general it seemed as though people no longer cared for intellectual discourse and genteel networking.

But what is now inescapably clear is that salons are undergoing a renaissance. Forget the Groucho or the Cobden; if you aspire to be a really chic mover and shaker, then it is the homes of Carole Stone, Allegra Donn or the Ozanne brothers to which you must inveigle an invitation.

"You don't come to Carole's salons to drink up," says Richard Lindley, Stone's partner (whom she jokingly refers to as "my issues man"). "You come to converse, to take off your hat and give your views of the world."

And the views are varied, because the guests at Stone's salon are eclectic, to say the least, ranging from politicians, media personalities and actors to Stone's bank manager, and her relatives from Cheshire. "Nothing gives me more pleasure," she says, "than mixing people together in a room. Every time I have a party, I introduce someone to someone else who I think they should meet. Sometimes it's a disaster, sometimes it's a success, but it's always interesting. I remember introducing Jeffrey Archer to Mary Archer, and I introduced Princess Michael to Prince Michael, and I introduced Princess Diana to John Major once came. I introduced him to Mama." It was her late mother who inspired her to start her salons. "I always wanted everyone to meet my mother."

It was also her extraordinary contacts and a desire to network. For ten years, Carole Stone produced *Any Questions?* and when she left she had a fat address book and an a deep desire to "put people together". She also seems to be addicted to guaranteeing that people will walk away from her salons having at least four business cards in their pockets. "Give him your card! Give him your card!" she whispers furiously to me.

After she left the BBC, Stone wanted to become an Oprah-type talk show host. It didn't work out, but she still had that desire to work a room. Although she lives with Lindley (a television journalist) in Gospel Oak, she bought herself a small flat in Floral Street to host bi-weekly power lunches, the predecessor to the salon.

The lunches grew and grew until they became the Monday Night Salon. "I invite people I meet who I think are interesting and I want to know better," she says. "After all, none of us have time — you meet someone, you want to see them again, but you rarely get together for coffee or lunch." To supplement the salons, she throws a Christmas party ("first Tuesday of December, at the Reform Club ...") for 700 friends. "But a year is too long to wait to see people!" she cries.

"The definition of a salon," Stone later reads to me from the dictionary, "is a drawing room, a reception room, a periodic gathering of notable persons in the house of a society queen". She roars with laughter at the bit about the "society queen".

Stone is glamorous and vivacious, but she does not hold the salons for society reasons, the way that Isabel Archer — Henry James's unfortunate heroine in *A Portrait of a Lady* — did. Archer's were held on Thursday afternoons at her Florentine palazzo and guests drank tea and nibbled cakes. The discussions were erudite, artistic, slightly stilted — Archer's own unhappiness must have projected itself on to her guests — but they were still so popular that anyone who was anybody travelled from London to Italy to attend.

Dorothy Parker held salons in the dining room of the Algonquin Hotel in midtown New York, where her guests — known as the Vicious Circle — ate scrambled eggs, drank Prohibition gin and created some of the best American poetry and prose of the first half of this century. Gertrude Stein held terrifying, but intellectually stimulating, salons (Hemingway rowed with her and was banned for a while). So did Coco Chanel, Alice Longworth Roosevelt (daughter of Teddy) and Katharine Graham, the publisher of *The Washington Post*.

The late, great Pamela Harriman used her salons as a conduit to power. So did the biographer and wife of the former Ambassador to London, Evangeline Bruce, who somehow got away with holding lunchtime salons that did not include lunch. Bruce was perfectly happy to serve only bourbon and hors d'oeuvres to Princess Margaret and other distinguished guests: in her book it was the conversation and company that mattered, not whether there was roast chicken.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Sally Quinn, who married *The Washington Post*'s Editor, Ben Bradlee, was for many years the satellite around which Washington society revolved. Only last year she expressed her regret that the politically correct Clinton era had quashed all that. "It's unfortunate there aren't these salons any more," she said sadly. "The whole culture has changed — the era of the hostess really is dead."

In London, at least, this is no longer so. Allegra Donn, an Italian writer who has lived in London for almost ten years, holds salons through which an extraordinary procession of the film world passes. They are held in her serene palazzo-style flat next to Chelsea football ground, and once you have pushed your way through throngs of football supporters, you find yourself in the most erudite of company. Most of Donn's evenings revolve around the motion picture industry, but she will organise one for any occasion — an actor's visit, the opening of a film, a recent gig. Regular guests include Michael Radford, the director of *Il Postino*, Michael Austin, now working on *Slow Train to Milan*, the actress Maryam D'Abo, the actor Daniel Auteuil (I shared a taxi to Notting Hill with him), Magnus Fiennes (brother of Ralph), plus Italian sportsmen, models, socialites and assorted European aristocracy.

Donn usually plans for 25 people; then word gets out and the phone starts ringing. "They start out small," she says. "And get bigger, which is fine because I just make more pasta."

Julian and Dominic Ozanne, two film-maker brothers who live together in an airy, African-inspired house in West London, are noted for inviting a *mélange* of characters to their home to sit on the floor, drink red wine or vodka, eat and discuss world policy. Even on a Sunday night their house is buzzing with guests who have either just flown in from some exotic place or are en route to one. Both brothers are excellent cooks, and having grown up in Africa, are extremely generous hosts, so the food and drink is lavish.

Another regular salon takes place in The Albany flat of Dessa Trevisan, who was *The Times* correspondent in the Balkans for 40 years, and the *grande dame* of Eastern European correspondents. She serves iced champagne and beluga caviare and invites serious journalists and diplomats to sit at her feet and discuss geopolitics. You do not venture into her flat without first having read *The Economist* and *The New York Review of Books* cover to cover, as Trevisan will berate anyone she deems not to have replied intelligently and articularely enough. Entering her grand flat, with its collection of Orthodox icons, oil paintings and dusty books, is like entering a Dostoevsky novel. Trevisan holds court wearing a Chanel lounging costume and smoking Cartier extra-thin cigarettes. "Now dahling," she drawls, "what do you think of the latest news from Pale?" She fixes you with her intense stare, and you perform, or die. One leaves an evening with Trevisan always stimulated, if exhausted.

Salons, in a sense, are best given by those who are collectors of people. You do not throw them if you do not like noise, smoke, arguments or company. "I love introducing people," gushes Stone. "It could be a life-changing experience. You could meet a new partner, find a new job. I am," she adds, unnecessarily, "addicted to people."

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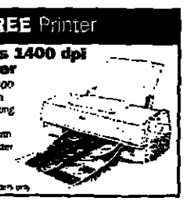
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Design is an art that bears repetition

MELVYN BRAGG



They held the annual *Design Week* Awards in the Natural History Museum this year. The story of the design of man seemed an appropriate setting for this new clutch of eager British designers of things which affect our daily lives.

As everyone knows who has visited this magnificent museum, the dinosaur Diplodocus, longer than any juggernaut and twice as elegant, dominates the main hall. The dinosaur, beautiful but with a fatal design fault, would have been amused no doubt by the applause for best-designed brochures, posters, consumer products, furniture and restaurants, to take just a few of the categories. How complicated these human beings are, it would have mused. And when, as the music swelled to fill the great hall with Hollywood strains of triumph, the winners ploughed their way to the podium, I could feel the massive skeleton straining in its blocks, eager to fly over Kensington as Peter Pan once did, *Jurassic Park* longing for *Star Wars*. That is the problem with being at an awards ceremony in such a fascinating place. The mind wanders.

These awards, though, made two contemporary points. The first point is that, tentatively, furtively, like the small mammals which crept out of the wreckage of the planet after the meteor hit the Earth 65 million years ago and destroyed Diplodocus and all his relations, British designers across the spectrum are beginning to find a voice.

We know about John Galliano and Vivienne Westwood and Alexander McQueen and we like to see their creatures strut their stuff on the catwalks. We are even beginning to recognise Paul Smith, although a lot of us are taking a very long time to change suits. But designers of everyday goods, of office and restaurant furniture, of packages and reports, are as obscure to most people as were the small mammals to the great monsters 65 million years ago. Now, though, they are without question coming out to play.

The second point is that this is design, sometimes intensified to art — and sometimes better than that which calls itself art these days — which affects us all. Those who design the office furniture, the posters and CDs may have a more emphatic influence on the general sense of taste than any New Master or even Old Master. After all, going to an art gallery or a museum is a rare outing for most people. Just going out is what most of us do — and mostly to work. The buildings we see, the clothes which are worn, the objects which pass before us in our everyday lives, must make a far greater impression than the occasional digression into great art. Like everything else in daily use it is taken for granted and underrated. We prize rarity — and that is understandable — but to ignore that which is common, as in the common reader or common land or the *Book of Common Prayer*, is to fail to understand what may be the most interesting face of a time which democracy and the classless spread of information makes unique.

This is not of course to argue that Websites are more artistically valuable than the Parthenon. It is, though, to try to recognise the importance of what we too often dismiss as the ordinary. In the right hands the ordinary can be extraordinary. Look at television graphics — the titles to programmes — which can be as brilliant as television commercials (and both of these genres are often more visually stunning than the programmes between them). Their comparatively large budgets play an enormous part in this distinction. Nevertheless, the results are worth much more than a second look. In fact, the point about television graphics is that they often have to endure a 22nd, a 52nd, a 92nd look as they are repeated again and again. They have to be hardy perennials as well as being alluring. They are the fly to catch the fish to feed the public to keep the show on the screen.

BBC Resources won the Design Award this year and some of the graphics were extremely stylish and witty. As the graphics were shown on the big screen I was reminded of what Sir Simon Rattle had said on the radio that morning. He had delivered a eulogy about the music which is composed for children's cartoons. He said that, through his children, he had got to know certain cartoons and their music very well, and the music which could endure repetition "20 or 30 times" and still be effective and dynamic was — and he used the word — "genius".

One need not go quite that far to see that in what is so often unregarded there may be fine matter. Wordsworth's manifesto 200 years ago spoke of not having to wear fine clothes to have fine feelings. An over-simplified look at the history of Western literature over the past few hundred years could point to a slide down the social scale in subject-matter from the kings of Shakespeare to the tramps of Beckett.

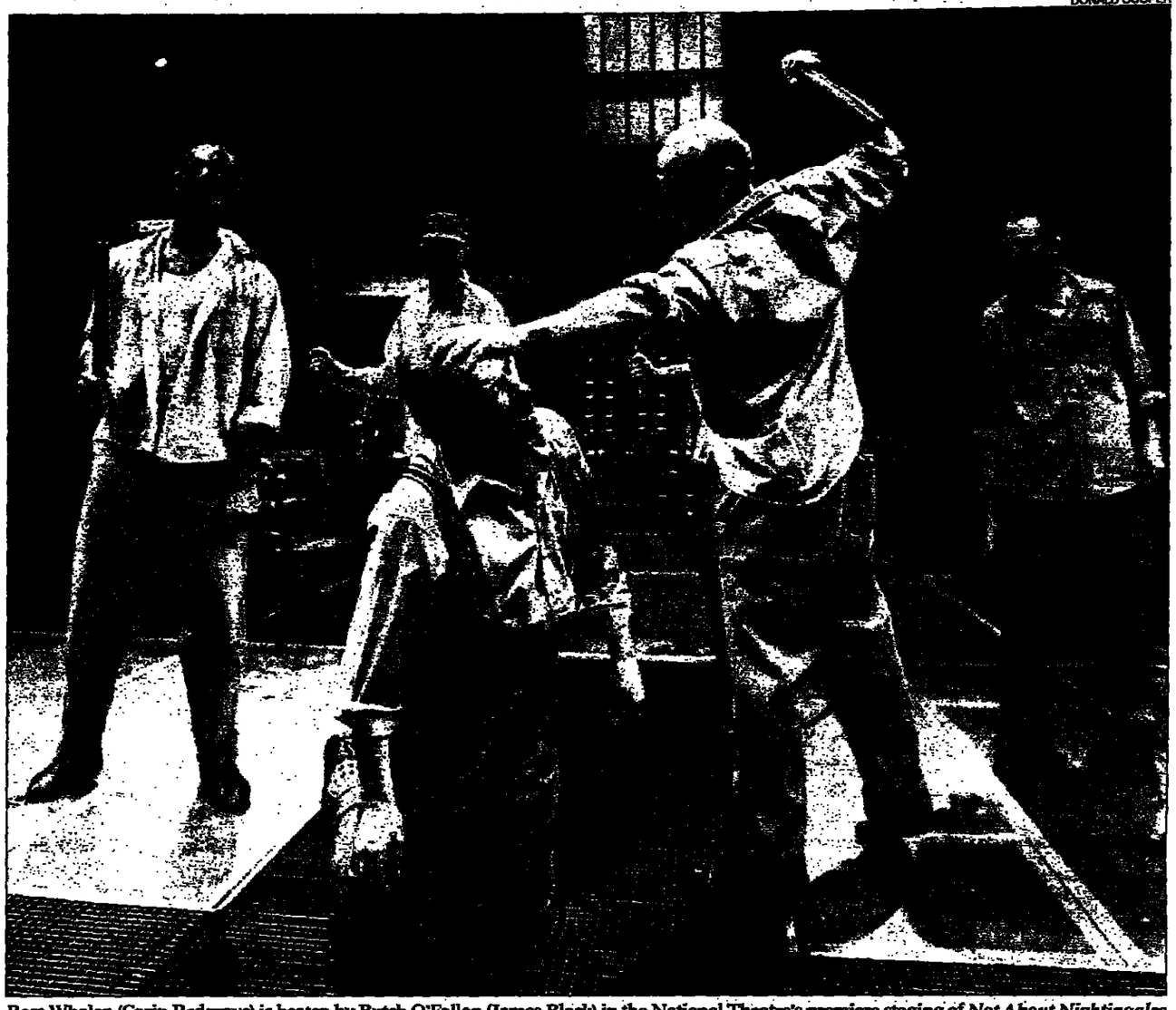
It is in the objects in daily use that we may have to look for fine work today. By looking we will encourage it. The Italians seem to demand style and it is produced to meet that demand. It is not as if we are without a tradition: look at the agricultural implements of the 19th century, once in widespread and common use, now fit to be hung on the walls of galleries and museums.

Diplodocus would have agreed. He knew that design was the key. If only he had been manufactured a little smaller, or fireproof, or both.

DONALD COOPER

Tennessee's early shocker

Not About Nightingales
Cottesloe



Boss Whalen (Corin Redgrave) is beaten by Butch O'Fallon (James Black) in the National Theatre's premiere staging of *Not About Nightingales*

Thank Vanessa Redgrave or, if you find the going too tough, blame her. As a result of her diligence at delving through Texan archives, and then her determination to bring her discovery to the attention of the directors of both Houston's Alley Theatre and our own National, we have this fascinating, off-putting, paradoxical curio: the world premiere of a very old play by Tennessee Williams.

We know about its origins from Williams's biographies. In 1938 there was a national scandal after four men died when the steam was turned up full-blast in a radiator-lined cell block in a Philadelphia prison. Williams, then a 27-year-old still unsure whether he would end up a dramatist or a shoe-salesman, was moved to start a play on the subject. The amateurs in his native St Louis refused to stage the result; and, though it was among the work Williams submitted to a playwriting contest in New York, *Nightingales* was not the piece that won him a lifesaving, career-determining $100. "It may be very good or very bad, I don't know, I haven't read it yet," Williams remarked as he finished his third draft.

Well, the evidence of Trevor Nunn's production, a collaboration with the Alley and the Redgraves' Moving Theatre, is that it is neither. Its strengths — fierce indignation and anti-fascist passion — push some characters towards caricature; the young, inexperienced dramatist should have trimmed and cut, hinted and implied rather more. But the text lets Nunn and his designer, Richard Hoover, create the feel of a "model prison" that is actually what one inmate describes as "a little corner of Hell".

Everything is grey: the steel cages and corridors at one end of the big, open stage, the grilles and benches in the middle, the filing cabinets and even the parody Stars and Stripes in the warden's office opposite. Troops of prisoners in grey fatigues, hands on each other's shoulders, stumble past, looking like giant centipedes. One man ends up mad; another beats his own head in; a bewildered youth is destroyed by a stint in isolation.

There are two plots. One concerns a new secretary (stunned-looking Sherri Parker Lee) and her burgeoning affection for a trusty (Finbar Lynch in strong, brooding form). That gets sentimental, especially towards the end, which is not something one could say about the second, primary plot. This involves a hunger strike that, under the guidance of a prisoner who in every sense merits the name Butch (charismatic James Black), escalates until the warden very literally turns up the heat. Everything leads to the climactic scene in which steam fizzes through the floor and men are boiled to death; and, to be honest, the little that follows is a bit anticlimactic.

Whatever the reservations — and Butch's hallucinations of a sexy dancer cloy — the evening is a triumph for another Redgrave. Corin plays the warden, an outrageous sadist who gurgles over the phone to his child, then orders yet another atrocity or, as if he were not far enough beyond the pale already, starts seducing his secretary. Yet Corin, mottled and sweaty and weirdly mesmeric, makes you believe in him. You end up feeling that here is the first of the brutes, monsters and vicious rednecks who were to haunt Williams's work.

But then *Not About Nightingales* presages play after play by a dramatist who was to make entrapment and restlessness, imprisonment, flight and freedom, his moral and emotional themes for ever after. Yes, let's thank Vanessa.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

● *This review appeared in late editions of* The Times *on Friday*

Wildly off the wall

The Barbers of Surreal
Lyric Studio

OF ALL the absurdities that have washed up on London's stages in recent months, this surely takes the biscuit. Not particularly well known for their linear plots, Forkbeard Fantasy customise Rossini's opera to create a barber shop run by Tim Britton's Salvador which specialises in genetic engineering and surrealism. We watch as Madame de Range has her hair shaved off and replanted with straw, and laugh as he glues a giant replica of Dali's famous moustache to his brother Flabberjay's head.

The comedy is in the tripling of parts. The three actors — Chris Britton, his brother Tim and Ed Jobling — play a cast of, if not millions, then more than seems entirely necessary. But it is their use of film projectors that is brilliant. We see village life passing by the barber shop as it is projected behind the window-frame. The cinematic figure of a Tom Thumb-sized man in a loincloth is ingeniously "placed" in a budgie cage. And the mysterious mirror which Salvador plunders from the Museum of Childhood cleverly "reflects" the faces staring into it.

Somewhere, buried deep behind the screens, is a rather tattered story of a grey-haired Alice in Wonderland and a disgruntled 7ft white rabbit. Having been freed after ten years' hard genetic engineering, the rabbit is employed by Salvador to clean his windows and so becomes a surreal witness to even more surreal goings-on.

Despite Tim Britton's Salvador sloping around his shop and fulminating like some sort of Hammer House version of Richard Attenborough, Forkbeard cannot quite sustain the eccentricity for 75 minutes without several large bald patches of ennui. Still, they scrabble some fine moments from the clumps of hair that mysteriously move around the shop floor, and the sleight of hand by which characters leave the barber shop only to reappear immediately on film. Children and collectors of curiosities will love it.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

CONCERTS: Rattle revisits the Seventies; the Hallé rattles the begging bowl

An epic too far in millennium dash

It is characteristic of Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra that the most challenging of their *Towards the Millennium* programmes so far is the one they are performing most often — in Birmingham (twice), London, Cardiff and, incredibly, Vienna. One can see the logic: having gone through the agony of learning big scores from the 1970s, they might as well make the most of it. But there is a problem, not so much economic as artistic. Can a conductor and orchestra, however devoted, sustain both Birtwistle's *The Triumph of Time* and Tippett's Fourth Symphony in one evening? And that is reckoning without Oliver Knussen's Third Symphony which, though it requires less emotional commitment, is stressful for its technical complexity.

In the second of the two concerts in Birmingham's Symphony Hall, the Knussen was awarded a brilliant endorsement of its textural ingenuity and its structural design. But then there was *The Triumph of Time*. With Tippett's Fourth Symphony still to come — and not as just another performance but as a tribute to the memory of its composer — the Birtwistle did not inspire the unfailing onward pressure that it needs. True, it is a long, essentially slow movement which cannot be rushed. But nor was its every move presented as the inevitable next step.

As Rattle remarked in his touching address to the audience, Tippett's scores might become more familiar but they don't get any easier. On the other hand, with an interpretation as fluent and as purposeful as the one he was just about to give and with an orchestra as well prepared as the CBSO, the difficulties scarcely seem to exist. And in the Fourth Symphony it is only in such circumstances that the extraordinary beauty in the development of the ideas becomes fully apparent.

Meanwhile, in Manchester last week Lawrence Foster not only donated his fee for conducting the Hallé to the orchestra's endowment fund, but also gave a well-turned speech inviting the public to do an equivalent part in preserving their orchestra from extinction. The applause which he provoked, and which was renewed after the performance of Schumann's Third Symphony at the end of the concert, clearly indicated that he had made his point.

It would have been a great moment for the Hallé administration to launch an appeal. But, far from standing with what is left of his staff at the exit to the Bridgewater Hall to encourage the flow of cheques from a motivated audience, the new chief executive was apparently on more urgent business elsewhere. The patronage leaflet glumly handed out by hall stewards was about as inviting — with its outdated appeal to "an exclusive group of people" — as next year's tax-return form.

Happily, the orchestra still has the spirit and skill to respond to the mood of the moment. The account of the Schumann was uncommonly fluent. Offset by a witty performance of Hindemith's *Kammermusik No 1*, Schumann's romantic vision seemed all the fresher in inspiration and spacious in ambition.

The first half of the concert was similarly well designed. If, after Cherubini's teasing of the violins in his grotesquely exotic *Ali-Baba* overture, the first movement of Mozart's Piano Concerto in C, K467, seemed a little dull, it was because of the high stylistic standards the soloist set herself. Imogen Cooper is clearly determined not to ingratiate her Mozart interpretations through self-conscious charm in phrasing or pert provocations in rhythm. Simplicity is the rule and when it cannot be mistaken for primness it is highly rewarding.

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All the President's mien

Whether hero or figure of fun, America's head of state is grist to the Hollywood mill, now more than ever. **Jeff Dawson** reports



Despite appearances, the man John Travolta plays in the controversial *Primary Colors* is not Bill Clinton

Hollywood studios spend a fortune on marketing their movies. They needn't bother. When it comes to some of the recent releases, the current incumbent of the White House has conducted nothing short of a one-man crusade on their behalf.

Wag the Dog, which opens in Britain this week, is a comedy about the Secret Service concocting a phoney war with Albania to divert media attention from a fictitious President caught *en flagrante* with a woman not his wife. The film has been packing them in in America ever since real life conspired to imitate art. And then there is the eagerly awaited *Primary Colors*, which opens in Britain next month, a $65 million glossy about the rise of a Southern Governor whose campaign team seem best employed smoke-screening their boss's trouser problem.

Officially, the subject isn't Bill Clinton — "I used a lot of him because he's the archetype right now," says John Travolta, star of *Primary Colors*. "But these guys all kind of used each other. He's using a little bit of Kennedy, there's a little bit of Carter. They all kind of mirror each other."

> ‘Kennedy was the first celebrity president. He lived like a film star’

But who does Travolta think he's kidding? Anyone who read the bestseller by the journalist Joe Klein knows that *Primary Colors* is nothing other than a lampoon of the Arkansas Poo-Bah.

Even Woody Allen is benefiting from Lewinskygate, eliciting howls of laughter from an otherwise throwaway reference to the President's foibles in his forthcoming film *Deconstructing Harry*.

It is, however, only chance that these films have gained such currency. (Another one, *Bulworth* — starring Warren Beatty as a senator who renounces lying — is on its way.) All were filmed last summer. Indeed, Universal Pictures has been busy quashing allegations of malice over *Primary Colors*. It doesn't help that the film carries the subtitle: "What went down on the way to the top". "It's nonsense," says a spokesman. "Call it coincidental, call it whatever you want. You can reinterpret the tag-line depending on the circumstances."

From the whimsical (*The American President*), to the diabolic (*Absolute Power*), to the anarchic (*Mars Attacks!*), to the biopic (*Nixon*), one thing *is* clear: the Chief Executive has become *the* film role of the 1990s. It is such a cinematic staple that when CNN footage of the *real* Clinton was doctored for use in *Contact* no one batted an eyelid — except for the folks on Capitol Hill, who were *said not to* be best pleased. But then they have never been particularly forthcoming where movies are concerned.

"We deal with Iraq and Bosnia, sir," says the White House. "We don't comment on movies." Especially, one assumes, when studio heads are big campaign donors.

Realism may be the order of the day in the documentary *The War Room*, but in Hollywood the presidential image has become outlandish, what with President Bill Pullman tally-hoing an F16 against aliens in *Independence Day*, and Budweiser-swilling Vietnam vet President Harrison Ford breaking renegade Russian heads in *Air Force One*. ("The first kick-ass President of Hollywood motion pictures," Ford says of the part. "Diplomacy and statesmanship — not to mention *kung-fu*.")

Ever since President McKinley was filmed tottering around his porch in 1896, each President has been represented in the movies — Teddy Roosevelt in *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, J.F.K. in *PT109*, Woodrow Wilson in *Wilson*. There are hundreds of turns, although none has appeared more often than Abraham Lincoln. From D.W. Griffith's *Birth of a Nation* onwards, Honest Abe (whose image is so wholesome that it is at his monument where Jimmy Stewart has his epiphany in *Mr Smith Goes to Washington*) has been on hand, cropping up whenever a story called for a bit of stove-pipe wisdom. What is noticeable is that Lincoln acts almost as a cipher for the age. In 1939's *Young Mr Lincoln*, starring Henry Fonda, he was a caring Roosevelt-styled humanitarian; by 1988's US TV mini-series *Gore Vidal's Lincoln* he was a hard-headed Reaganite sacrificing thousands of lives for the republic.

It happens with fictitious Presidents, too. Despite the odd aberration such as *Kisses For My President* (female President and a First Man), Commanders-in-Chief have divided into two types. Either crusty FDR/Truman/Ike patriarchs, such as in *Advise and Consent*, or Cold War pragmatists, as in 1964's *Seven Days in May* and *Fail Safe*, in which Henry Fonda stars as a President who nukes Moscow.

But then came Jack Kennedy. With Kennedy, *everything* changed. The distinctions became blurred. The first celebrity President, he not only *lived* like a film star, but has pretty much become the standard for all "good" film Presidents since, right up to *Primary Colors*. It is no surprise that the *more sinister* (and noticeably older) leaders — witness those in *Absolute Power*, *Clear and Present Danger* and *Wag the Dog* — are somewhat Richard Nixonian (demonised himself in *All the President's Men*). *Dave*, in which a noble impostor replaces an indisposed rogue, emphasises the dichotomy. No clear enemy without? Look to the enemy within.

"Hollywood is not a subtle place. Hollywood is an area of extremes," says Rod Lurie, the American critic turned film-maker, who is currently directing another presidential-themed picture, *Deterrence*. "When you look at the Kennedy-Nixon TV debates, it is a presentation of *bad* on the one hand and *good* on the other in terms of their politics and their physical appearances. Good versus Evil. Which is why Hollywood either goes Nixon or Kennedy."

Of course, in recent years J.F.K. has proven to be no angel himself (in a footnote to history, *Primary Colors* director Mike Nichols was actually on the stage behind Marilyn Monroe when she crooned "Happy Birthday, Mr President" all those years ago). Thus, the all-pervading modern media have deemed that America take its Presidents warts and all.

The turning moment in Clinton's run for office was the 1992 TV interview in which he all but admitted committing adultery. It is no wonder that with all the movies since, sex has been the issue. Even in *My Fellow Americans*, former Presidents Jack Lemmon and James Garner comment on the White House's concealed philanderous entrance, known as "the Kennedy Door". Such references have proved troubling. After watching *The Pelican Brief* (featuring President Robert Culp), Clinton allegedly became concerned as to whether there was any truth behind the *movie's* suggestion that there were cameras hidden in the Oval Office.

In short, the President's peccadilloes are as symptomatic of the modern age as was the refusal to show Franklin Delano Roosevelt's wheelchair in the past. Contrast *Primary Colors* with Frank Capra's *State of the Union* (1948), in which presidential hopeful Spencer Tracey comes unstuck because — shock! — he's "had an affair".

But has it gone too far? In *Absolute Power* an evil Gene Hackman plays a President sexually molesting the wife of a rich political donor until the Secret Service bursts into the room and shoots her. In *Murder at 1600* a young woman is found dead in a White House bathroom (after enjoying sex on the presidential desk) and is believed to be the shared mistress of both the President and his son.

The fact that *Wag the Dog* and *Primary Colors* are both comedies might say something more about the perception of Clinton than he would care to admit. But forget these. Perhaps the greatest piece of satire has already come and gone, found on video in the shape of *Dave*, in which First Lady Sigourney Weaver meets, for the first time, Kevin Kline's Dave (unbeknown to her, filling in for her real husband Bill, who has had a stroke while bedding an underling). "Who was she, Bill?" snarls Weaver as the pair prepare to step on to the White House balcony. "Another patriotic secretary?"

Gems in a poor setting

The Romans have been in London, courtesy of Welsh National Opera. After Monteverdi's *Poppea* comes Mozart's last opera, *La clemenza di Tito*. There is little to cheer in Yannis Kokkos's empty production and even less to admire in his apologies for sets. Hard to believe that much of his career has been as a stage designer. But musically the evening is on a totally different plane..

Much credit goes to Charles Mackerras. The conductor's association with WNO has been long and distinguished and *Tito* ranks among his best achievements. His recent enforced absences from the pit through shoulder problems seem to have reinforced all the best qualities of his Mozart: attack, vigour, clarity. Act I, with its cumbersome plot about the planned killing of Emperor Titus, can sometimes be a plod. But not under Mackerras. Most of the numbers in the first half are quite short and he always leaves the audience wishing for more.

OPERA

La clemenza di Tito

Shaftesbury

In Act II the arias, notably for the scheming Vitellia and the reluctant traitor Sesto, become more complex. Mackerras took some of the heat off the orchestra and allowed sections, especially the woodwind, to revel in the delicacy of the scoring.

He has also created a star performer in the mezzo Katarina Karneus. Since winning the Cardiff Singer of the World competition three years ago Karneus has sometimes appeared to take on parts hardly worthy of her — Flora in the Paris *Traviata* a couple of months ago, for instance. But Sesto is a different proposition and one that she seized with full voice and body.

Karneus transcended the weak staging, which left other singers as mere puppets, and turned Sesto into a youth besotted by an older woman and putty in her manipulative hands. The aria in which he goes off to do Vitellia's bidding was especially fine, but throughout the evening Karneus revealed an ardour and richness of tone which, in a theatre the size of the Shaftesbury, shows the voice is settling admirably.

Isabelle Verner's Vitellia is built on French battleship lines, with vocal guns to match. She stalks the stage like a Lady Macbeth sniffing blood, but could have done with a bit more cream in *Non piu di fiori*, where Mozart shows clemency of his own in assigning his villainess the most exquisite of numbers. Glenn Winslade was a beefy Titus, impassive at the start but showing some imperial qualities later.

JOHN HIGGINS

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Michael Nazir-Ali counsels the Prime Minister against conversion

The Roman Catholic Church is a mighty edifice. For centuries it has maintained and spread the Christian faith in many parts of the world. The wonderfully attractive Pope John XXIII and the Second Vatican Council set it firmly in the direction of modernisation, and its reforms have made it more accessible to people of Tony Blair's generation.

But there still remain serious reasons why a committed Anglican such as the Prime Minister should not contemplate becoming a Roman Catholic. New Labour says it is committed to greater democracy, but this sits very oddly with membership of a Church in which government by counsel and consent remains very undeveloped. Indeed, church government remains firmly in the hands of the Vatican, and to a much lesser extent with the bishops. There are no established institutions for consulting clergy and laity on important issues — and where tentative steps have been made to do so they have been ruthlessly suppressed.

Even when priests are able to meet, or there are occasional pastoral congresses of clergy and lay people, they are not allowed to discuss controversial issues such as the celibacy of clergy or the ordination of women. The Church of England and the Anglican Communion as a whole have certainly not got everything right about synodical government, but Mr Blair will miss their style of open government and the full discussion of issues with representatives of the clergy and laity.

> Can a democratic leader order his spiritual life within such a framework?

Closely related to this lack of "open" government is the way in which authority — especially papal authority — is still exercised by the Vatican, which insists that the truth of papal teaching is not established by its perceived consonance with scripture and tradition, but simply by the fact that it is papal teaching. This is a harking-back to the ultramontane days of the First Vatican Council, which declared that the Pope's teachings *ex cathedra* are "irreformable of themselves" and not because of the Church's consent. In spite of its many virtues, Vatican II endorsed much of this understanding of papal authority and in the course of the present papacy it has been greatly strengthened. Can a modern, democratic leader really declare that he orders his spiritual life within such a dogmatic framework?

Perhaps this would not matter so much if the teaching was about arcane matters of doctrine. In fact, it touches upon some crucial and sensitive aspects of human life. It has to be said, first of all, that not everything is negative. The social teaching of the Popes, and of the Church generally, is often based on rigorous social analysis and on an effective exposition of values derived from the Judaeo-Christian tradition. This is why it is so widely acceptable. Alas, the same cannot be said of the Church's teaching in the area of personal and family morality. It is well-known that Paul VI overturned the findings of his own expert commission on the question of contraception, reiterating the traditional position, which describes contraception as "intrinsically evil". This was done in spite of the Church's recognition that unregulated population growth was one of the main causes of poverty and that women had a particular burden to bear in this respect.

Another area of concern has been the development of technology in assisting human fertility. The Vatican regards as "morally unacceptable" even techniques which involve only a married couple, because they separate the sexual act from the procreative.

The problem is that insufficient attention is given to human relationships and to final purposes. In the case of both contraception and homologous artificial insemination and fertilisation, the teaching seems obsessed with the sexual act, without giving enough weight to the relationship within which the act takes place.

On divorce, also, the Roman Catholic Church maintains an attitude which on the one hand goes beyond the teaching of the Gospels and, on the other, operates judicial procedures which many regard as disingenuous. A declaration of nullity, for instance, necessarily involves a denial that there has been a marriage at all. This may be true in some cases, but, in others, would it not be better to acknowledge that there has been a marriage which has broken down?

Where abortion is concerned, all Christians share the fundamental teaching about the sacredness of human life and would oppose abortion on demand. But many would differ from the Roman Catholic teaching that abortion is *never* permissible, regardless of danger to the mother, and that the embryo is to be given the full protection due to a human being from the moment of conception.

Underlying much of this teaching there are attitudes to the place of women in the family, society and the Church. The refusal to ordain women symbolises an anthropology which regards the two sexes as "equal but different". In practice, however, some turn out to be more equal than others! Can the leader of a party committed to equality for women really belong to a Church which denies them this equality in a central aspect of its life?

In the past 40 years, the Roman Catholic Church has changed dramatically, not least in its openness to other Christians. The ecumenical movement has made much progress in bringing Christians closer. We must pray for further progress in unity and love — but in the meantime, the message to Mr Blair must be: "You should not become a Catholic (or, at least not yet)."

The author is the Bishop of Rochester

Liberal reformers they may not be — but Beijing's new-style leaders are committed to economic reform

Hong Kong feasts with the dragon

William Rees-Mogg

We were having dinner at the China Club in Hong Kong, discussing Chris Patten, the last Governor, and Tung Chee-hwa, the first Chief Executive. There is now more of a consensus on Patten's governorship than when he was in office; he is regarded as courageous and popular, but people are relieved that in the first nine months China has behaved better than he feared. That is partly due to the excellent relations Mr Tung enjoys with the leading figures in Beijing.

As someone who has served under the two men observed: "Both Governor Patten and Mr Tung have made our lives easier. If they have accepted our advice, they have always had a direct line to the leadership of the sovereign country." I spent last week in Hong Kong, and found an almost unanimous view that the relationship with China has been much better, though the economy has been more difficult, than anyone foresaw at the time of the handover.

I talked to a number of very interesting people; some of whom I had met before and some I was seeing for the first time. I had met Martin Lee, the chairman of the Democratic Party, on a previous visit; even he takes the view that the Chinese Government has been moving in the right direction, though he fears a sharp swing to the hard Left. In the May elections for the new Legislative Council, the Democratic Party and its allies are expected to win a quarter to a third of the 60 seats, despite limited franchises and what they consider an unfair system of proportional representation.

There are, of course, still flurries of anxiety. Last week an old Hong Kong hardliner attacked RTHK, the Hong Kong equivalent of the BBC, and chose Beijing as the place to launch his attack. Mr Tung, whose view of RTHK is no warmer than that of other heads of government for critical broadcasters, was slow to go to the station's defence. Anson Chan, his chief officer, was quicker and firmer. But Mr Tung did come out in favour of independent broadcasting, and made it clear that RTHK is a matter for Hong Kong, not Beijing. When I saw him, he told me he was convinced that President Jiang Zemin and the Prime Minister-elect, Zhu Rongji, both genuinely support Hong Kong's autonomy under the principle of "one country, two systems".

After only nine months, this might only be window-dressing for world opinion. The strongest reason for thinking it is better than that is what is happening in China itself. China still has serious defects in civil rights and it is a tragedy that there has not yet been a reconciliation with Tibet. Yet the Chinese Government is carrying through vast reforms, which will help to make China a more efficient, more open and more modern society.

Mr Zhu himself drafted the remarkable Thatcherite report which was delivered to the National People's Congress in Beijing last Friday. This stated that: "The Government is handling many affairs it should not handle, cannot handle, or could not handle well. Overstaffing is severe. This tends to promote red tape and bureaucratism, fosters corruption and unhealthy practices and is a huge burden for national finances." The new programme will abolish 15 ministerial bodies and retire or relocate half the Civil Service. The report blamed "Asia's financial turmoil" on the "lack of separation between government and enterprise". It stated that "blind investment and redundant construction have created a large stock of non-performing loans and potential financial risk".

The present leaders of China are not liberals but they are practical reformers, of the school of Deng Xiaoping. They will be followed by a younger generation, many educated in the United States, which already has its own views. A similar difference of generations is apparent in Hong Kong. I had a good conversation with Mr Tung himself; he belongs to this older generation, and understands them, but has lived in a pluralist and commercial society.

Mr Tung supports the reunification of China; "only Taiwan is left". He observes that China now has a "stable and clear leadership". He believes that the country needs to have a strong central leadership if it is to remain united. He admires the Zhu Rongji policies of downsizing the government, reforming the banks and privatisation. He is satisfied that Hong Kong's relations with China are now good, and that China has no intention to interfere.

When one talks to younger executives in Hong Kong, whether they are in or out of public service, the Communist Party's monopoly of power in China is accepted as unavoidable in the present phase of Chinese development, but regarded as something which will be transmuted by natural processes over the longer term. The coming to power of the next generation, the development of regional wealth, the growth of the new middle class, are all expected to result in a more pluralist Chinese society. The democrats want faster change, but most Hong Kong Chinese seem now to accept that political gradualism is the price of China's economic reforms.

Certainly, the financial crisis has strengthened the belief that China and Hong Kong are two parts of a single economy, which will flourish or fail together. When, in October, there was heavy speculation against the Hong Kong dollar, Beijing told Mr Tung that Hong Kong must take its own decisions, but that they would give any support Hong Kong asked for. Hong Kong never had to ask for any.

The decision to defend the peg to the dollar seems to be absolute, both in Hong Kong and Beijing. Hong Kong has a very strong currency position, with reserves equal to ten times the monetary base. I met no one who thought the peg could be broken; both China and Hong Kong believe that devaluation would not help trade, but would destroy confidence.

In Hong Kong, as elsewhere in Asia, the raids by American speculators have been much resented. Asia is producing most of the world's savings; because the dollar is the world's reserve currency, these savings are lent to the United States; they are then borrowed by speculators who attack Asian currency. The Chinese do not want the welfare of a billion people to depend on George Soros's casino. Yet the monopoly of the dollar as a reserve currency is seen in Hong Kong as temporary; Asia will find its own way to be self-financing sooner or later; both Hong Kong and Shanghai are developing their international debt market.

The Asian crisis has hurt Hong Kong badly; it is the sharpest recession in decades, hitting tourism, retailing, property and the stock market. There are shops closing and shops offering 60 or 70 per cent discounts. Recent homebuyers have negative equity. Yet the heart of Hong Kong's economy is the China trade; that will probably increase again this year.

The visitor to Hong Kong is struck by the continuity of Hong Kong life and business. But the change has been fundamental. Hong Kong is part of China; it is a Chinese city. I am an optimist for Hong Kong, as were most of the people I met. I think that the Chinese reforms are real and historic in scale, and that they will be carried further. I do not think China will strangle Hong Kong as a great international city. I expect the Chinese economy to double and double again in the next generation, and I expect Hong Kong to share fully in that massive creation of wealth.

Partners in a political two-step

Blair and Ashdown need to dance to one tune, says **Peter Riddell**



Tony Blair has faced three big political tests as Labour leader. He passed the first spectacularly in reinventing his party before the general election. He has so far flunked the second by deferring a decision on a European single currency. And, later this year, he will have to give a definitive answer to the third — on the shape of the political system — when he responds to the report of the commission on the voting system chaired by Roy Jenkins.

Mr Blair's decision will determine not only how we elect members of the Commons, but also whether we are moving to a new form of coalition politics. No one is sure which way Mr Blair will jump. He has often said he is "not persuaded" of the case for proportional representation (PR). He is keen to creat a broad Centre-Left alliance. But will this be achieved by an all-embracing "new" Labour Party, absorbing sympathisers among the Liberal Democrats? Or does Mr Blair really believe in a pluralist approach involving co-operation between parties?

Paddy Ashdown has committed himself — and gambled his own future — on Mr Blair being a pluralist. He is now well ahead of many in his own party on the issue and is impatient with critics who do not see the big opportunity now, with the prize of PR within reach. He talks of the "Liberal hour" and wants his party to be a participant, rather than a spectator, in the upheavals ahead. Hence, there will be underlying tensions amid tonight's celebrations of the tenth anniversary of the formation of the party from the old Liberal Party and the wreckage of the SDP. Some critical motions have been tabled for next weekend's half-yearly conference in Southport, notably by councillors from the big cities whose main enemy is Labour rather than the Tories.

The basic division is about attitudes to Blairism. Mr Ashdown believes the Government has got the big issues right and has started a process of radical change. Mr Blair has honoured his promises on constitutional reform and has gone further by setting up a consultative Cabinet committee. The two parties are natural partners as they have been over Scottish devolution. By contrast, Mr Ashdown's critics doubt Mr Blair's intentions. They see the Government as conservative rather than reforming: in the words of Conrad Russell, the hereditary voice of Liberalism, people "voted for change but they have not got change".

Mr Ashdown has sought to maintain a balance via his policy of "constructive opposition" — backing the Government on constitutional reform but being very critical over, for example, levels of health and schools spending, lone-parent benefits and student fees. Most Lib Dems accept this but do not want to go any further now. Mr Ashdown's critics fear he is too eager to enter into a formal deal with Mr Blair. Some of his allies have warned him not to rush into a coalition. They argue that Labour will now have to take decisions on welfare reform and spending that will be unpopular with Lib Dems. It is in any case sensible to wait until Mr Blair has responded to the Jenkins commission and said what he will recommend in the promised referendum.

Mr Blair greatly respects Lord Jenkins of Hillhead and the report is likely to be Jenkins's last great contribution to public life, in effect his legacy, after a career largely devoted to realigning the Centre. But the commission has to reconcile conflicting terms of reference — "broad proportionality, stable government, an extension of voter choice and maintenance of a link between MPs and geographical constituencies".

Jack Straw, Peter Mandelson and many Labour MPs favour the alternative vote (AV), which would preserve existing constituencies but allow voters to express a one, two, three preference. But this is not a proportional system and last May would have produced an even larger Labour majority.

A possible compromise has been floated of AV-plus: in addition to AV in constituencies, people would have a second vote to elect members in each region from party lists to ensure greater proportionality. But this would require a much larger House of Commons, unless the number of single-member constituencies is cut from 659 to between 450 and 500 — involving a unique act of self-sacrifice by sitting MPs. A change could be phased AV at the next election, with a firm manifesto pledge of a proportional element later.

The choice of system is, however, secondary. Mr Blair's main concern, as he repeated in Perth on Friday, is to ensure that "this Labour Government is the first to be elected for a full second term in office". The question is whether the Lib Dems can help. Mr Blair likes Mr Ashdown and some of his allies, but is irritated by other Lib Dems. In the Downing Street view, they fail to realise that cooperation involves give and take, and restraint in criticism when concessions are offered (such as PR for Euro-elections).

Many ministers are hostile to the Lib Dems, particularly after they initiated a series of government defeats in the Lords. There is little support now for bringing the Lib Dems into the Cabinet, though that is possible nearer the election after, say, a PR referendum. Revealingly, Robin Cook is one of the keenest on cooperation, being one of the most assiduous attenders at the joint Cabinet committee.

The decision is not just a take-it-or-leave-it option for Mr Blair. The Lib Dems could be useful allies, both in the Commons after the next election and in fulfilling his hope of creating a broad, progressive alliance. Moreover, if Mr Blair rejects electoral reform for Westminster, he will doom both the leadership of Mr Ashdown and his strategy of cooperation. Any successor would lack his authority and popularity, and probably be more hostile. Mr Ashdown needs Mr Blair to succeed, but Mr Blair needs Mr Ashdown to survive.

In his cups

THE Prince of Wales has been enjoying private performances at his country home by a transsexual magician. Fay Presto, a former forklift truck driver, whose tricks also used to delight Diana, Princess of Wales, stars in shows at Highgrove.

The Prince has always been fascinated by wand-wavers: he joined the Magic Circle in 1975, after successfully mastering the "cup and balls" trick in front of its members (he made the balls vanish, and then reappear under the cups) and still enjoys performing the odd rabbit-pulling stunt, complete with Tommy Cooper-style gags, at private dos. His success has been partly attributed to personal tuition from Paul Daniels, the diminutive TV conjuror.



Tricky situation: Fay, Charles

Ms Presto, who became the first female member of the Magic Circle, and is now one of the highest-paid magicians in the country, has displayed her talents at both Highgrove and Windsor Castle. "One should be discreet about these things," she tells me, attempting a disappearing trick. "I always keep my counsel, which is why I am allowed to keep doing these parties in refined places. But Charles does get very involved in magic."

Buckingham Palace confirms that the Prince "likes to throw parties for his friends and staff and brings in entertainers from across the board". Jack Delvin, from the Magic Circle, is delighted, and warmly praises his conjuring skills: "Royalty and magic go back a long way, and Charles is a fine magician. He is very good at the cup and balls trick."

● *PETER LILLEY has accepted defeat in last year's Tory leadership battle with grace. "I always thought that one day William would be leader and Prime Minister," he says. "I just hoped there would be room for me in between."*

Small change

THE similarities between Lord Irvine of Lairg and Lord Birkenhead, his predecessor as Lord Chancellor, grow ever more uncanny. Birkenhead, appointed in 1919, drew gasps from Parliament when he presented grandiose plans for his living quarters in the House of Lords. He wanted to gather portraits of his predecessors for the dining room and pickle the Gothic oak panelling in preservative, while Lady B. demanded that two separate bathrooms be installed for the servants.

In the biography of his father, the Earl of Birkenhead notes that a "great outcry arose about the proposed expenditure". Colleagues leaked tales of his drinking habits and his penchant for interfering with other ministers' briefs. But comparisons can only be stretched so far: Lord Birkenhead concluded that the controversy was embarrassing the Government and abandoned the Lords residence for his own Grosvenor Gardens house.

Flathered

SADLY, Hague is less than popular with other party swells. Baroness Flather, the first Asian woman in the House of Lords and organiser of the successful recent tour of India by descendants of its great Viceroys, took him to task at a Westminster gathering of top poppadums, where Hague said he wanted to see more Asian MPs. "Tell that to the constituency associations who won't select Asian candidates," she thundered. "There is a limit to how long we can support a party which doesn't represent us." Hague, vowing to redouble his efforts, was suitably cowed: "When Baroness Flather talks, you listen".



"Honestly, it was only chocolate money, Tony"

● *MALHEUREUSEMENT*, I erred: John Adamson, the Cambridge don, did not, as I reported here last month, attend an auction to bid for boots, nor did he try any on. My apologies.

Diary straits

ADRIAN ROGERS, the starchy Exeter Conservative who railed against the sexual proclivities of his Labour opponent at the last election, has an Alan Clark-style problem. A magazine in Exeter, the *Flying Post*, is running a spoof diary under his name, parodying his robust views (he called Ben Bradshaw, now the local MP, a "godforsaken, sterile, disease-ridden pervert"). "They have started this diary, clearly intended to be by me, which at first I thought was a bit of fun," says Rogers. "But friends have been asking why I write it." Sounds familiar. The admirable Clark has some comradely words: "His solicitors must have my experience in the back of their minds and that fulsome decision should guide his action." Like Clark, Rogers drives a blue Bentley. "I call it Little Ben, after Bradshaw."





GRAHAM GREENE (above left) took issue with the legendary film critic Dilys Powell over her tepid review of *Our Man in Havana*. In a letter, to be auctioned by Phillips this month, Greene says Alec Guinness's performance was hindered by his screen daughter, played by Jo Morrow. "Poor Alec was not at fault in the film. He (was) utterly unable to play his role with the awful young woman who played the daughter . . . she was quite intolerable." And I always thought Greene liked young women.

● *A millennium project to rival the Dome in Greenwich has sprung from the inventive mind of Steve McCabe, Labour MP for Birmingham Hall Green. McCabe wants to build a shrine to the author J.R.R. Tolkien, in the form of a 12-mile* Lord of the Rings *theme park in his constituency. "I'm loath to say it would be better than the Dome," he says. "But we could use their ideas."*

JASPER GERARD

TIMES FAST — THE TIMES — FUTURE

ZHU'S BIG BANG

An ambitious assault on red tape and party prerogatives

"When a new official takes office, he must light three fires." This Chinese proverb, like many others in the rich trove bequeathed by mandarins down the centuries, is a comment on the difficulty China has always experienced in effecting institutional change in a vast country historically run by a powerful elite. Zhu Rongji, the economic reformer who is about to be formally elected China's Prime Minister by the current National People's Congress, comes to the job armed with plenty of combustible material.

He has set a tight timetable for his plans to strip down and modernise China's vast bureaucracy, kick party officials out of industrial management, cut millions more jobs in loss-making state enterprises as they are restructured or liquidated, and tackle the mountain of non-performing loans in the banking system. If he succeeds in forcing these programmes through, this will amount to the most dramatic changes in 20 years to the way China is run.

Mr Zhu has rallied doubters in the party behind his radical platform by insisting that Asia's financial crisis could infect China too unless it sharpens up its act. For the past week, the congress delegates have been treated to remarkably frank analyses of China's economic failings. Even Li Peng, the Soviet-trained outgoing Prime Minister who has hardly been a standard-bearer for radical change, has hymned the praise of small government and admitted that the State has had its fingers in too many pies. The closure or amalgamation of 11 of China's 40 ministries has been announced, together with the dismissal of four million senior civil servants, half the present total, by the end of this year. The remaining ministries are to be reconfigured on market lines, will no longer have direct control of most state enterprises and, in a blow for accountability, will lose their powers to regulate the economic activities they still run. Local governments may also have to cut deep into their payrolls.

Equally dramatic are the plans to shed industrial workers. Labour ministers have bluntly admitted that, even with 11.5 million urban workers already laid off, the "iron rice bowl" state enterprises still employ twice as many workers as there are jobs for them to do and that 3.5 million more must go this year alone. Whether they will go, in practice, is a different matter.

Unemployment has joined crime and corruption on the list of popular concerns. With the urban unemployment rate now officially over 3 per cent — a figure that excludes both factory hands sent home on part-pay and the huge armies of jobless who have drifted into the cities from the countryside — strikes and demonstrations by angry workers are becoming increasingly common. Jobless peasants in remote rural districts may not lose party officials much sleep; but they are understandably nervous about alienating the urban middle classes. They will also be reluctant to lose the power to provide jobs at the heart of their webs of political patronage. The history of China's campaigns to cut red tape and weed out collusion between officials and business is not encouraging. Chinese are masters at going through the motions of reform, "closing the temples but keeping the priests".

Mr Zhu's answer is to create jobs through a $1,000 billion pump-priming programme of infrastructure investment. But it is not clear where the money will come from: the 1998 budget may yield less than 8 per cent growth this year. China is feeling the pinch in Asia's shoe; foreign investment is sharply down and so are export earnings.

Mr Zhu has earned trust as an economic manager. But even among the handpicked delegates to the congress, dissatisfaction is high. The more effectively he can free the running of the economy from political interference now, the easier it will be for him to deal with the rising demands for political reform. For China's new generation of modernisers, that is the logical next stage.

NOT SO FAST

Labour has a duty to consult on constitutional reform

Big bangs cause casualties. The report that the Government is planning to put a barrel of gunpowder under the House of Lords and replace it, during the lifetime of this Parliament, with a new chamber entirely of its own devising will damage more than aristocratic pride and *amour propre*. The speed with which the Government plans to act offends the principles by which it claims to be guided in reforming the constitution.

The best case for change in the Upper House rests on the proposition that the power currently enjoyed by governments as a consequence of their majorities in the House of Commons needs to be more effectively checked and balanced. The current House of Lords, with its majority of hereditary peers, lacks the due authority to hold the Commons to account. If the purpose of change is to limit the capacity of the Commons to batter through hasty legislation without proper scrutiny, why is it proposed that Lords reform be battered through in haste with no room for consultation, scarcely space for another view? Does the Government think of its own future blueprint, as the Duke of Wellington thought of the constitution he inherited, as a thing incapable of improvement? The duke at least had 14 years of civil peace and economic growth as warrant for his arrogance.

It is not necessary to be attached to the hereditary principle to find the Government's reported position provoking. The suggested model for a future second chamber that the Government apparently favours may well have qualities to recommend it. A House with a majority of elected members and a leavening of independently appointed expertise is a defensible improvement. But it is vain to suppose that such an answer is the only appropriate, let alone ideal, way to improve the operation of Parliament. The ratio could be altered, and there is a case for making the chamber almost wholly elected. There is also a case for respecting the nature of the current composition more sensitively than Labour proposes to. There is, most powerfully of all, a case for considered and wide-ranging debate before half of the legislature is simply swept away and a new chamber established, in less time than it will now take to build the Dome, simply to meet an electoral timetable.

The Government was right, initially, to proceed by consulting the Opposition and should not so precipitously abandon attempts to broker agreement. A new chamber will work better if as much as possible is built on common ground. The Government should, as the Tory leader in the Lords, Viscount Cranborne, has suggested, publish alternative models so that the merits of each might be publicly debated and refined. The roar of approval from a Labour conference for the abolition of hereditary peers should not be the last word in this debate.

Labour's strategists have always wanted the Tories to fight in the last ditch, the better to bury them. *The Times* has argued that Conservatives should contribute to discussions on the future of a second chamber for the sake of a balanced constitutional settlement. If, however, it is Labour which now chooses to reject the path of consensus and dialogue, then reform of the Lords, rather than being a trap for the Tories, could become a quagmire for Labour. If the Conservatives were to oppose Labour's "fast track" with a blueprint genuinely more democratic and sensitive than the Government's, William Hague could accomplish an outflanking manoeuvre in the best traditions of the party of Disraeli and Salisbury.

A PIG'S BEST FRIEND

Making sausages of the mind of man



The Empress of Blandings would never have proved so mean-spirited. But several of her fellow species are about to be subjected to tests to determine whether pigs can learn deception and guile. The Bristol study aims to examine the proposition few question but many believe: that pigs are remarkably intelligent. Do they really so resemble human beings that they can at times behave . . . well, like pigs?

Lord Emsworth would be apoplectic. In one experiment, two perfectly decent pigs, one heavy and one light, will be put together to search for hidden food. The lighter trotter will already know the answer, and so its ignorant companion will use it as a guide, locate the trough and use its weight to barge in and snaffle the food for itself. Will the clever but hungry smaller pig try a little deception next time, and lead its overweight friend to the wrong spot?

That pigs are wily few farmers doubt. Many assert also that they are sociable, companionable and sensitive. Given the right surroundings — presumably a field that even the sharpest hooves cannot churn into mud — they are said to be fastidious about personal hygiene. Some fanciers keep pigs as pets, and a decade ago the Vietnamese pot-bellied porker became a favourite among those seeking new companions in the animal world. Nikita Khrushchev would go miles out of his way to see a few good pigs, and a prize specimen was usually laid on for him to scratch during state visits abroad.

Orwell understood man's love-hate relationship with the species; Napoleon, leader of the farm revolt, provokes admiration as well as antipathy. But affinity with the snorting, grunting animals and revulsion at their habits goes back many centuries. The sorceress Circe turned her captives into pigs, and many a subsequent fairytale recalls the fate of those forced to dwell in porcine company. From the Three Little Pigs who practised various styles of architecture to the more sinister pig's head totem in *The Lord of the Flies*, the animal has been a powerful literary symbol. For many viewers, Miss Piggy is a character whose tantrums and romances are more real than any human emotions.

Does the affinity have a physical explanation? Of all anatomies, the pig's most conveniently fits the human. Its organs are suitable for transplant, its skin and constitution similiar enough to be used in gruesome ballistics experiments. The ancients often learnt their anatomy from the bodies and entrails of pigs. Today's researchers now want to learn about their brains. And if they find that porcine intelligence is as manipulative, cunning and feral as our own, will we be flattered or repulsed?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Call for debate on the future of work

From Mr Roger Undy and others

Sir, Bearing in mind calls for social partnership, we have been meeting to discuss from our different perspectives trends and developments affecting the future of work or, more precisely, the future of paid employment. This issue is obviously central to economic policy, and the Labour Government's proposed reforms of the welfare state have recently given it an even higher profile.

Policies for lone parents, second pensions and getting the unemployed back to work under the New Deal, to name but a few, all rely for their successful implementation in the longer term on the continued provision of high levels of paid employment. Lone-parent and second-pension policies rely on earned income and deferred (earned) income, respectively, to replace or supplement state benefits. Such policies aim, in turn, to ameliorate poverty, reduce social exclusion and give people dignity in work and retirement: all clearly desirable objectives.

The implicit assumption is that, in future, the labour market will provide the scale and type of employment required to support this proposed long-term shift from public to private provision. Yet we are also witnessing a revolution in the world of work, the longer-term implications of which are subject to speculation and controversy.

In this debate pundits who predict technology-driven jobless growth and ever higher unemployment are countered by those who see demographic changes producing a shortage of labour in industrialised nations. Similarly, contradictory arguments surround the rise of the flexible labour force: apart from acknowledgement that Britain "leads" Europe in terms of the longest working hours, there is little agreement about the appropriateness of the new flexibilities and associated job insecurities, particularly when employers are seeking greater commitment from their employees.

There is no dearth of good material available on the future of work: the International Labour Office, the Royal Society of Arts, the Council of Churches, the Rowntree Foundation and now the Economic Social Research Council have been, or are, actively examining this subject.

What is needed now, we suggest, is for the Government to establish a commission to pull all this material together and address what is probably both the most fundamental longer-term challenge to its key policy initiatives, and to the people of Britain in the next century — the future of work and paid employment.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER UNDY
(Fellow in Industrial Relations, Templeton College; Reader in Management Studies, Oxford University),
RODNEY K. BICKERSTAFFE
(General Secretary, Unison),
BROOKE of ALVERTHORPE
(Joint General Secretary, Public Services Tax and Commerce Union, 1996-97),
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MICHAEL HERON
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JOHN LAST
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MARC THOMPSON
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March 6.

Royal flush

From Mr Peter Elton

Sir, Queen Victoria and John Brown using the same loo in 1865-83 (Lucinda Lambton's letter, March 4)? Really! Not only is this a case of servants getting above their station. They were not even on the right railway line. The LNER did not exist until January 1, 1923.

Yours etc,
P. M. ELTON,
2 The Birches,
Felsham Road, Cockfield,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 0HW.
pip.elton@mcmail.com
March 4.

Composition and powers of the Lords and Commons

From the Director of Charter88

Sir, The news that Conservative and Labour peers are discussing reform of the House of Lords (report and leading article, March 6) is very welcome; it is right that constitutional change should take place in a climate of cross-party discussion and debate. But since the debate has been led by the proposed abolition of the voting rights of hereditary peers it has focused on the vexed question of how to choose new members of the second chamber.

Surely the question which needs to be answered first is what the second chamber is to do. To answer that properly may take more time and effort and a more structured consultation process, possibly through a Speaker's Conference.

It may need more measured long-term plans to be drawn up in order to gain cross-party support. But our democracy will be all the better for it.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW PUDDEPHATT,
Director, Charter88,
Exmouth House,
3-11 Pine Street, EC1R 0JH.
March 6.

From Mr Francis Bennion

Sir, You report (March 5) that the Tories are demanding an independent second chamber: and you yourself say in today's leading article that it should at least contain a very substantial independent element. I disagree, for the consequences would be disastrous.

Under our constitution there is room for only one independent chamber, and that must continue to be the House of Commons. So the new House of Lords must not be wholly or partly elected, whether directly or indirectly.

The House of Commons furnishes and controls the executive, and in the last resort it must always be possible for the executive to control the second chamber. As Bagehot said, it is idle to expect a second chamber — a chamber of notables — to resist a popular chamber when it, and the nation, are vehement.

The means by which the executive controls the House of Lords is the power at any time to create a large number of new peers who will do what the executive wants. Although in practical terms that House is in a sense independent, it is not so in ultimate reality. There lies the genius of our unwritten constitution.

If the hereditary element is to be removed we must perforce swallow that bogey the Grand Quango, solely the product of repeated prime ministerial patronage. However, under modern conditions, with a vigilant press, prime ministers are unlikely to get away with exercising this constitutional function improperly.

Yours sincerely,
FRANCIS BENNION,
5 Old Nursery View,
Kennington, Oxford OX1 5NT.
March 6.

From Mr Simon Chapman

Sir, Lord Alexander of Weedon (letter, March 5) is right to say that Conservatives should consider proposals for reform of the House of Lords. However, such proposals cannot be considered apart from the question of reform of the House of Commons. That chamber's "credibility and influence" need to be strengthened as well.

Yesterday the Government allowed the House of Commons only 50 minutes to debate the provisions in its Scottish devolution Bill that deal with the West Lothian question: should Scottish MPs be allowed a say and a vote on English affairs when English MPs have no such rights in relation to Scottish affairs?

The Government's inability to answer the West Lothian question is one of the principal objections to devolution. Until it is solved, the Government will risk the rise of English nationalism and the ultimate dissolution of the Union.

It is a disgrace that the Government allowed so little time for debate, which can be rectified only in part if the House of Lords is given a proper opportunity. If the Commons cannot scrutinise and amend flawed legislation in an independent way, we need a second chamber that can. Proposals for reform of the House of Lords must be judged in that light.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON CHAPMAN,
Old Beith House,
Fernhurst Road, Milland,
Liphook, Hampshire GU30 7LU.
March 5.

From Mr Russell Wood

Sir, There is much to be said for someone to be in politics in order to fulfil an inherited obligation to engage in public service and not for any reason of personal aggrandisement. Such people are independent and able to take an interest in unfashionable matters, even though the majority might belong to the Conservative Party.

I suggest, therefore, that an agreed proportion should continue to sit in the Lords and should hold their own election for this purpose. Apart from that, I am completely against having an elected second or "Upper" House of Parliament.

Admittedly, this would not solve the Government's immediate problem of there being too many Conservatives; but now that the Labour Party has reformed itself it should have the confidence that this anomaly will eventually be eradicated.

Yours truly,
RUSSELL WOOD,
The White Cottage,
Chigwell Village, Essex IG7 6QB.
March 5.

Sierra Leone victims

From Lord Avebury

Sir, You reported yesterday that the commanding officer of the RN frigate which has delivered humanitarian supplies to Sierra Leone — where the population is still recovering from the violent overthrow of the military junta (reports, February 10, 12, 14) — found the scenes there "harrowing".

Britain was largely responsible for the drafting of UN Security Council Resolution 1132 of October 8, 1997, which imposed an embargo on Sierra Leone applying to weapons, ammunition and fuel but not to humanitarian supplies. The Nigerians unlawfully prevented all traffic into the port of Freetown, bombarding vessels trying to bring in relief supplies, and killing many civilians. They leaned on Guinea, so that not an aspirin or a gram of rice was allowed across that border either.

Nothing was said by the Security Council or Britain about the legality of these measures or their effects on the overwhelming majority of the population, who had nothing to do with the military coup. This may be contrasted with the international community's policy on Iraq, where it is constantly stressed that humanitarian supplies are exempt from the sanctions.

If we had taken a firm stand against Nigerian aggression, much of the suffering we are now trying to relieve could have been avoided. Our silence in the face of Nigeria's violations of international law appears to have been part of a strategy to impose the maximum short-term pain, in the hope that the military regime could be toppled as quickly as possible.

The country is now under the occupation of the Nigerians and the ethnic militia, known as the Kamajors, which had been encouraged by President Kabbah before the coup and is now the only permitted armed force in the country.

For the time being, the people may be grateful for peace at any price; but Britain also has a responsibility to help insure that all are able to participate in the process of democratic reconstruction, national reconciliation and amnesty, without discrimination and irrespective of their ethnic origin.

Yours faithfully,
AVEBURY,
House of Lords.
March 6.

Rail safety record

From Sir Robert Horton, Chairman of Railtrack

Sir, I fully agree that "corners cannot be cut with rail safety", but I reject the general tone of your leading article of March 4, "Cracks on the line". This suggests that Railtrack is complacent over track safety, underspends, has a backlog of work and does not manage its contractors effectively. None of these suggestions are true, as the following facts prove.

In 1987 there were 73 passenger collisions and derailments; in 1997 there were 18. In 1987 there were 40 accidental passenger fatalities; in 1997 there were 20. In 1987 there were 14 level-crossing fatalities; in 1997 there were nine. These are not the statistics of a company "failing to manage its business properly". Safety is a key issue which takes priority at our board meetings, at our central management meetings and at our local management meetings.

To suggest that the fragmentation of the railway has made it unsafe has no foundation. In fact, one consequence of privatisation has been the introduction of safety cases as defined by HM Railway Inspectorate. These provide a well structured mechanism, statutorily based and monitored by the HMRI, for managing safety between companies in the railway industry. Last year we spent around £300 million on track renewals and a further £400 million on track maintenance. There is no backlog.

Private stewardship has been a success. Train performance is running over 30 per cent better, passenger volume is up 8 per cent — the first increase in ten years — and freight volume is up 12 per cent since Railtrack was formed, following a 20-year decline. The network is running better, freight and passengers are returning to the railways and much-needed investment is now pouring in.

Travelling by train remains, by far, the safest form of land transport — over 20 times safer than road. Key performance indicators show that track conditions are improving year by year.

However, we continue to set exacting standards of improvement for our management teams and our contractors. We are not complacent. We accept our responsibility for the stewardship of the network.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HORTON,
Chairman,
Railtrack plc,
Euston Square, NW1 2EE.
March 4.

Operation Mincemeat

From Viscount Norwich

Sir, The allegation, reported in your Diary of March 2, that after the publication of *Operation Heartbreak* in 1950 my father, Duff Cooper, was told by MI5 "never to come back from France" is so grotesque that I must once again rehearse the facts which I first published 26 years ago.

My father told the Government in 1949 that he intended to publish a novel based on Operation Mincemeat, a hugely successful deception whereby a corpse dressed as a British officer was dropped off the coast of Spain with documents suggesting that the allies were planning landings in Sardinia and southern Greece, while trying to deceive the enemy into thinking that their real target was Sicily.

Strong pressure was put on him not to do so, for two reasons. First, it might harm Anglo-Spanish relations; he replied that in the circumstances he saw no cause to be over-solicitous of Franco's feelings. Second, in some future war we might wish to repeat the operation. To this his answer was that Mincemeat had been a brilliant trick that could never, by its very essence, be played twice.

The Germans and the Russians both knew about it, and for years Winston Churchill himself had held dinner-tables spellbound with his own distinctly baroque version of the story. He therefore considered the objections to be without validity and had no intention of withdrawing the book.

Four months after publication *Operation Heartbreak* had gone into four editions and sold 40,000 copies. I am not aware that the national interest suffered, either then or later, in consequence. Nor did my father experience any repercussions, from MI5 or anyone else.

All that did happen was that the late Ewen Montagu, QC, the real originator of the operation, who had been refused permission to write the true story, was suddenly asked to write it at once, for immediate publication. He wrote *The Man Who Never Was* in a single weekend, and later became a close friend of

Yours faithfully,
JOHN JULIUS NORWICH,
24 Blomfield Road, W9 1AD.
March 2.

Sport letters, page 35

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Church appointments

From the Reverend Brian Mountford

Sir, There is another method of making senior appointments that the Church of England might try (letters, February 26, March 2), and that is to advertise the job, make a shortlist, and interview the candidates.

If the Church is to relate more effectively to society at large, the interviewing panel should include in equal numbers representatives of both Church and secular life at the national and local level.

There is no obvious reason why the majority of those who make the appointments (and who are appointed) should be drawn from the General Synod either. The net needs to be widened.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN MOUNTFORD,
University Church of
St Mary the Virgin,
High Street, Oxford OX1.
March 2.

From Canon Dr R. John Elford, Pro-Rector of Liverpool Hope University College

Sir, Whatever the best way of appointing Anglican bishops may be, one thing is clear: it must accelerate if those appointed are to have credibility.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. ELFORD,
Pro-Rector,
Liverpool Hope University College,
Hope Park, Liverpool L16 9JD.
March 5.

Ringing complaint

From Mr Andrew Fleming-Williams

Sir, I share Mr Tony Stanier's frustration with phone calls during the evening from strangers trying to sell him things (letter, March 5).

Last night I was rung by a major UK plc involved in a hostile takeover bid and keen to acquire my handful of shares in their quarry. When Mr Stanier is drafting his legislation, could he please include those trying to *buy*?

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW FLEMING-WILLIAMS,
13 Woodborough Road, SW15 6PY.
March 5.

From Mr Martin Hasseck

Sir, Why add another law to the statute book? I receive calls neither from strangers trying to sell me things nor those wishing to be a nuisance on the telephone.

Doubtless this is because I am ex-directory, as I have been for as long as I can recall.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN HASSECK,
104 Holders Hill Road, NW4 1LL.
March 6.

From Mr Bob Jeffay

Sir, Although one can't stop the calls being made, some satisfaction can be obtained by using my putdown. When the caller states what they are selling I reply: "That's great. I'm very interested but I'm busy just now, so if you leave your number I will call you back at your home about 11.30pm."

It always cuts the call short.

Yours,
BOB JEFFAY,
Wuthering Depths, Park Road,
Gatley, Cheshire SK8 4HP.
March 5.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 7: The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, this afternoon attended the International Rugby Match between Wales and Scotland at Wembley Stadium, Middlesex.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will start the Commonwealth Games Relay Message from Buckingham Palace at 12.30. Prince Edward will attend.

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will attend the Commonwealth Observance at Westminster Abbey, at 3.00: and will attend the Commonwealth Day reception at Marlborough House, Pall Mall, at 6.30.

The Princess Royal, as President, the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will attend a meeting of the Board of Trustees at BT, 81 Newgate Street, London EC1 at 11.00.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Amerigo Vespucci, explorer, Florence, 1451; Honoré Mirabeau, statesman, Bignon, France, 1749; Franz Joseph Gall, anatomist and founder of phrenology, Tiefenbrunn, Austria, 1758; William Cobbett, essayist and politician, Farnham, Surrey, 1763; Taras Shevchenko, poet, Ukraine, 1814.

Dame Lilian Braithwaite, actress, Ramsgate, 1873; Ernest Bevin, Foreign Secretary 1945-51, Winsford, Somerset, 1881: Vyacheslav Molotov, statesman, Kukaida, Vyatka, 1890; Victoria Sackville-West, novelist and biographer, Knole Castle, Kent, 1892; David Smith, sculptor, Decatur, Indiana, 1906; Samuel Barber, composer, West Chester, Pennsylvania, 1910; Yuri Gagarin, first astronaut to orbit the Earth 1961, Smolensk, 1934.

DEATHS: David Rizzio, favourite of Mary Queen of Scots, murdered, Edinburgh, 1566; Jules Mazarin, cardinal and statesman, Vincennes, France, 1661; Samuel Jebb, physician, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, 1772; Anna Barbauld, poet, Stoke Newington, London, 1825.

Arnold Toynbee, social philosopher, London, 1883; William I, German Emperor 1871-88, Berlin, 1888; Hippolyte Adolphe Taine, philosopher and historian, Paris, 1893; Frank Wedekind, dramatist, Munich, 1918.

Napoleon Bonaparte married Josephine de Beauharnais, 1796.

The French Foreign Legion, with its headquarters in Algeria, was founded, 1831.

Accession of Frederick III, German Emperor, 1888.

British police deported Archbishop Makarios from Cyprus to the Seychelles for fostering terrorism, 1956.

Professor Andrew Rutherford

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Professor Andrew Rutherford, CBE, former Vice-Chancellor, University of London, will be held on Monday, May 11, 1998, at the University Church of Christ the King, Gordon Square, London WC1, at 2.30pm. All are welcome but please apply for admission cards to H. Foden, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU. Telephone 0171 636 8000, ext 3221. Admission cards will be posted from April 20.

Mr James Lees-Milne

The memorial service for Mr James Lees-Milne will now be held at 11.30am on Thursday, March 12, 1998, at the Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street, London W1 and not at 11.00am as previously announced.

John Corbett

A service of thanksgiving will be held in memory of John Lionel Garton Corbett on Friday, March 20, at 3pm in Cheriton Parish Church.

Sir Peter Hutchison

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Peter Hutchison was held on Saturday at St Mary's, Woodbridge, Suffolk. Canon David Pitcher officiated.

Mr Mark Hutchison, son, read the lesson and Mrs John Bryers, daughter, read John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Sir Robert Hutchison, son, and Mrs Peter Wintgens, daughter, paid tribute.

Miss Charlotte Bryers, granddaughter, sang Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Love Changes Everything*.

Lecture

The London Institute

Professor Clyde Hopkins, painter and Head of Painting at Chelsea College of Art and Design, will discuss his work with the art critic Sacha Craddock at 7.00pm this evening at the Cochrane Theatre, WC1. For complimentary tickets call the Box Office on 0171 242 7040.

Latest wills are on the facing page

Nature notes

WOODLARKS are singing over heathland. They do not hover like skylarks, but fly round in the sky in wide circles. Their song is more melodious and beautiful than the skylark's, but not so vehement or so sustained. After a long period when they were rare and local, they are spreading out again in England.

Reed buntings have started singing again. The male with his black cap and white collar sits conspicuously on a bullrush or the top twig of an osier, and jerks out a few monotonous notes. Blackbird song is becoming more frequent at dawn and dusk. Magpies are flying about with long twigs in their beaks as they begin to repair their large, domed nests.

Pale green leaves are opening on the horse-chestnuts and hawthorns. The same trees and hedges are usually the first to leaf each year. On sallow trees, the silver male catkins are turning gold. On mossy walls, the tiny white petals of whitlow grass are opening; it is one of the smallest British flowers.

The white flowers of barren strawberry are appearing at the edge of woodland paths. The true wild strawberries will not flower until next month.

DJM

Birthdays today

Air Marshal Sir Roger Austin, 58; Mr Bill Beaumont, sports broadcaster and writer, 46; Dr M.G. Brock, former warden, St George's House, Windsor Castle, 78; M André Courrèges, fashion designer, 75; Mr Herbert Coutts, Head of Museums and Galleries, City of Edinburgh Council, 54; the Hon Sir Roualeyn Cumming-Bruce, former Lord Justice of Appeal, and his twin brother Lord Thurlow, 86; Mr Bobby Fischer, chess player, 55; Mr John Golding, trade unionist, 67; Major-General J.P. Groom, former director-general, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, 69; Mr Neil Hamilton, former MP, 49; Professor Sir Donald Harrison, laryngologist and otologist, 73; Mr Martin Johnson, British Isles rugby union captain, 28; Dr T.L. Johnston, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Heriot-Watt University, 71; General Sir Frank King, 79; Sir Norman Lindop, former Principal, British School of Osteopathy, 77; Mr R.G. Martin, company chairman, 77; Mr David Matthews, composer, 55; Sir Ronald Melville, former civil servant, 86; Sir Nicholas Monck, civil servant, 63; Professor K.E. Robinson, former Vice-Chancellor, Hong Kong University, 84; Mr Howard Shelley, concert pianist and conductor, 48; the Very Rev James Simpson, former Moderator, General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 64; Mr Phillip Sycamore, President of the Law Society, 47; Professor Sir David Weatherall, FRS, haematologist 65.

U-boat hunter to be honoured



Captain Walker during the Battle of the Atlantic

By Michael Evans
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE hero of the Battle of the Atlantic in the Second World War, whose tactical brilliance led to the sinking of at least 20 German U-boats, is to be commemorated by a statue 54 years after his death.

Captain "Johnnie" Walker, who won the Distinguished Service Order with three bars, is acknowledged by Navy historians to have been the greatest of the Allied escort group commanders in the battle, which reached its turning point in May 1943.

His ruthless pursuit of U-boats was among the principal factors that led to Hitler's decision to withdraw his submarines from the Atlantic, saving crucial merchant fleet supply convoys.

The proposal to erect a statue came from the 135 members of the Captain Walker Old Boys' Association. The Royal Navy is now supporting their plan with a fundraising campaign for a lifesize bronze statue at the Pier Head in Liverpool, departure point for many of Captain Walker's voyages.

Dinners

Pembroke College, Oxford

A dinner was held at Pembroke College, Oxford, on Friday, March 6, 1998. Mr Philip Lader, United States Ambassador, and Sir John Kerr, KCMG, Permanent Under-Secretary and Head of the Diplomatic Service, formerly Her Majesty's Ambassador to the United States, former members of the college, were the guests of honour. The Master, Dr Robert Stevens, presided. The other guests included:

Mr and Mrs Jonathan Aisbitt, Sir Philip Bailhache, QC, and Lady Bailhache, Mr and Mrs Frank Buckley, the Right Hon Sir Robert and Lady Carswell, Sir Robert and Lady Clarke, the Right Hon Sir Frank Cooper, GCB, CMG, and Lady Cooper, Mr and Mrs Ian Cormack, Mr Michael Crystal, QC, and Mrs Crystal, Viscountess Eccles, Mr Peter Farthing, Mr John Govett, LVO, and Mrs Govett, the Right Hon Michael Heseltine, CH, MP, Mr and Mrs James Knight, Mr Graham McCallum, CBE, and Mrs McCallum, the Right Hon Sir John Mummery, Sir Leonard and Lady Peach, Mr and Mrs David Rowland, Mr and Mrs Brian Taylor, Dr Damon Wells, CBE, Mr John Kennedy (Union Texas Petroleum Limited) and Mrs Kennedy, Dr and Mrs Kenji Tanaka (The Tanaka Foundation) and Mr Tadihiro Yoshida (The Tokyo Electric Power Company Incorporated).

Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club, Dover

Mr Christopher Barnett, Commodore of the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club, Dover, presided at the annual Commodore's dine-in held on Saturday at the club. The Bishop of Dover and Mrs Llewellin were among those present.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr M.R. Bentley and Dr S.P. Parker

The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Bentley, of London, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Parker, of Blackpool.

Mr M.J. Dobinson and Miss A.L. Harbottle

The engagement is announced between Mark, only son of Mr and Mrs John Dobinson, of Beaumaris, Anglesey, and Amanda, elder daughter of Mr Derek Harbottle, of Kingston Hill, Surrey, and Mrs Pauline Harbottle, of Barnes, London.

Mr G. Phillips and Miss T.A. Cox

The engagement is announced between George, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Brian Phillips, of Wroxham, Norfolk, and Tracy, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Cox, of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

Mr A.K. Raikes and Signorina G. Carminati

The engagement is announced between Anthony, second son of Mr and Mrs Roger Raikes, of Brecon, Powys, and Gabriella, second daughter of Signor and Signora Mario Carminati, of Riva San Vitale, Switzerland.

Mr O.G. Stuart-Lee and Miss N. McGarry

The engagement is announced between Osmund, younger son of Mr and Mrs Gerald Stuart-Lee, of Sandhill House, Rogate, West Sussex, and Nichole, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael McGarry, of Edmonton, Canada.

Marriages

Mr D.C. Daly and Miss L.J. Harrap

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Mary's, Bentley, Hampshire, of Mr Dermot Daly, elder son of the late Mr James Daly and of Mrs Daly, of Brainge, Herefordshire, to Miss Louise Harrap, elder daughter of Mr and the Hon Mrs Simon Harrap, of Bentley. The Rev James M. Campbell officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Emily Gatehouse, Isla Harrap, Davina Hill, Elizabeth Pilkington and George Wiggin. Mr Henry Daly was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in Barbados.

Mr C.R. Probets and Ms S. Champion

The marriage took place on Saturday, March 7, at Eastbourne Register Office, between Charles Robert Probets and Susan Champion. The honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr R.K. Timberlake and Mrs Y.C. Glover

The marriage took place on Saturday, March 7, in London, between Richard Keith Timberlake and Yvonne Christiane Glover, of Fernden Lane, Haslemere.

Paviors' Company

The following have been installed offices of the Paviors' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr J.H. Lelliott; Upper Warden, Mr P.D.M. Gell; Renter Warden, Mr J.E. Cruse.

Crufts results

Day 3: Utility and toy group

Boston terrier: Antrix Silva Joey, Mrs A Kennedy, Peterborough.
Bulldog: ch Ocobo Tully, Mrs P.Davis, Kings Lynn, Norfolk.
Canaan dog: Zeta Pride, Mr S.Payne, Weybridge, Surrey.
Chow Chow: Towsushet's The Mistress, Mrs K.Bolam, Plymouth, Devon.
Dalmatian: Doctor Fox By Salsusa, Miss S.Stanton.
French bulldog: ch Merrowlea The Enchantress, Mr N.Blagrave, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.
German spitz (klein): Stonelight Hullaballoo, Miss M.Kimber, Milton Keynes, Bucks.
German spitz (mittel): Willmac Nookie Bear, Mr W.McBain, Aberdeen.
Japanese akita: ch & ch Nor.Redwitch Dancin' In The Dark, Mr and Mrs D.Killilea, Knottingley, West Yorks.
Japanese shiba inu: ch Vormund I'm Smartie, Mrs D.Dunhill, Retford, Notts.
Japanese spitz: ch Houndbrae Banoffi, Mr and Mrs Moran, Martley, Worcs.
Keeshond: ch Dargrant Dressed To Kill.
Leonberger: Sund Stamm's Design Of Golden Art At Manorguard, Mr M.Feehan, Gedling, Notts.
Lhasa apso: ch Hashanah Picture This At Sealaw, Mr G.Corish, Preston, Lancs.
Miniature schnauzer: ch Minivale Mystic Meg, Mr and Mrs T.Parnell, Coventry, Warwicks.
Poodle (miniature): ch Navarre's ExaltatioN, Mrs E.Holmes-Leak, Bradford.
Poodle (standard): ch Montravia Royal Rumour, Miss P.Gibbs, York.
Poodle (toy): ch Valetta Love Affair, Miss V.Dunn, Newport, Gwent.
Schipperke: Abylity Celtic Lord With Radash, Mrs R.Archer, Ulverston, Lancs.
Schnauzer: ch Ir. ch Gelstvoll Othello At Tamberg, Mrs G. Ogburn, Tattershall Bridge, Lincs.
Shar-Pei: Chinese Whispers About Bellicose, Mrs L.Smith, Ashington, Northumberland.
Schih tzu: Kevelles Alive 'n' Kicking, Mr and Mrs K.Stott, Bolton, Lancs.
Tibetan spaniel: Velrok Hanif, Miss J.Holman, Ringwood, Hants.
Tibetan terrier: Araki Gay Crusader, Mrs M.Davies, Lugwardine, Herefordshire.
Affenpinscher: ch Avantgarde La Belle Dame Son Merci, Miss D.Shepherd, Staines, Middlesex.
Australian silky terrier: Sharhad Sweet An' Sharp, Mr and Mrs D.Sharp, Rednal, Birmingham.
Bichon frise: Tresilva Bright Spark At Suanalu, Mrs J.Gadd-Davies, Brentwood, Essex.
Cavalier King Charles spaniel: Storm Trooper By Delhaze, Mr & Mrs N.Edwards, South Harrow, Middlesex.
Chihuahua (long coat): ch Yeosinga Ria At Ballybroke, Mr and Mrs G.Foote, Burgess Hill, West Sussex.
Chihuahua (smooth coat): Dorentys Nokumded Norman, Miss D.Entwistle, Oldham, Lancs.
Chinese crested: ch Blandora Brainwave, Mrs J.Sewell, Weymouth, Dorset.
English toy terrier: Amalek Sophisticated Lady, Mrs M. Wilson, Okehampton, Devon.
Griffon bruxellois: ch Dozmare Distinctive, Mr G.Lee, Walsall, West Midlands.
Italian greyhound: ch Florita Pavolosa, Miss H.Lister, Windermere, Cumbria.
Japanese chin: ch Vival Shuji Tamura, Mrs E.Tappenden, Salisbury, Wilts.
King Charles spaniel: Amantra Charleston, Madames Giddings & Jackson, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset.
Lowchen: ch Teejay Terries Tart At Rishkhan, Mr S.Brown, Accrington, Lancs.
Maltese: ch Sabredor White Tail Express, Mrs G.Franklin, Wrexham, North Wales.
Miniature pinscher: ch Tubize Turbo Tigra, Mr & Mrs D.Smith, Wrexham, North Wales.
Pekingese: ch Stsanja Grand Finale At Yakee, Mr A.Easdon, Glasgow.
Pomeranian: Mathell Regal Gift Of Morrell, Mrs A.Robson, Rillington Malton, North Yorks.
Pug: Janscian Dark Crusader Per Pugini, Mrs P.Rufini, Malvern, Hereford & Worcs.
Yorkshire terrier: ch Verolian Out *Of The Blue*, *Mrs V.Sameja*-Hilliard, Chichester, West Sussex.

Day 4: Gundog group.

Retriever (curly coated): ch Gladrags Jackaranda, Mr and Mrs H Phillips, Welshpool, Powys.
Spaniel (field): Sandvika Crusader, Miss S Bamford, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.
Spaniel (Sussex): Belcam Moving On Up, Mrs E Shewell, Wellingborough, Northants.
German short-haired pointer: sh *Ch* Barleyarch Playboy, Mrs S Harris, Warrington, Cheshire.
Hungarian vizsla: sh ch Nicael Russe By Alsziv, Mr and Mrs J Digby, Hagley, West Mids.
Irish red and white setter: sh ch Bellavanti Beachcomber, Mr and Mrs D.Wilsher, Marden, Kent.
Italian spinone: sh ch Roscall Lucilla At Letyreos, Mrs L Makinen, Kislingbury, Northants.
Retriever (Chesapeake Bay): Chesepi Ghostbuster, Mrs M Barker, Doncaster.
Spaniel (clumber): Topjoys Caught In The Act, Mrs W Reid, Laurence, Kingcardineshire.
Spaniel (cocker): sh ch Perrytree Sun Dreamer, Mrs J Rowland, Horne Horley, Surrey.
Brittany: Tchao De French L'Hospitalier at Brittyhill, Mr & Mrs M Beaven, Godalming, Surrey.
English setter: sh ch Sorbus Paper Money For Richecca, Mr & Mrs N Kelly, Stoke on Trent, Staffs.
Gordon setter: Inkersall Bunting of Balcroft, Mr & Mrs D Cole, Huddersfield.
Hungarian wire-haired vizsla: Greenwire Robbie, Mrs J Reed, Lindhurst, Hants.
Irish setter: Harreds Poacher, Mr P Hall, Faversham, Kent.
Retriever (flat coated): Tiger Moth of Keepersend, Mr & Mrs D Miller, Newark, Notts.
Retriever (golden): Stanroph School Boy, Mrs A Woodcock, West Auckland, Co. Durham.
Retriever (labrador): sh ch Rocheby Polkadot, Mrs D Hopkinson, Doncaster.
Spaniel (American cocker): sh ch Boduf Pistols at Dawn With Afterglow, Mr M Gadesby, Blackpool.
Spaniel (English springer): Ellmvek Earthbound, Mr J Davidson, Fife.
Spaniel (Irish water): Zanti Moon Water At Coleenville, Mr N Large, Newtonabbey, Northern Ireland.
Spaniel (Welsh springer): sh ch Dalville Dancing Water, Mr & Mrs *Thurwell, Gateshead.*
Weimaraner: sh ch, Ir. sh ch Gunalt Harris Tweed, Miss K Robinson, Bolton Abbey, Yorks.
German wire-haired pointer: Rudishaw Rumour Has It, Miss C Shaw, Coalville, Leicestershire.
Large munsterlander: sh ch Gorsebank Dame Georgie, Mrs E Tyson, Gainsborough, Lincs.
Pointer: sh ch Adstock Jacobite, Mrs K McDougall, Melton Constable, Norfolk.

University news

Oxford

All Souls College

Elections

To Post-Doctoral Research Fellowships (from October 1, 1998): Jean-Sébastien Caux (St John's College), Erik-Christian Landis (Girton College, Cambridge).

London

Queen Mary and Westfield College

Honorary Degrees of London University will be conferred on:

Lord Butler of Brockwell, Master of University College, Oxford (LLD); the Right Rev Richard Chartres, Bishop of London (DD); Dr Marjorie Reeves, FBA, graduate and former research fellow, Westfield College (DLitt).

The following have been elected Honorary Fellows of Queen Mary and Westfield College:

Mr Peter Caruana, Chief Minister of Gibraltar; Baroness Chalker of Wallasey; Professor Sir William Asscher, former Principal, St George's Hospital Medical School; Dr K B Chan, Hong Kong businessman; Sir Edward Pennessy, former managing director, Post Office Telecommunications; Professor James Scott, FRS, Professor of Medicine, Imperial College School of Medicine; Professor John Thornes, former President, Institute of British Geographers; Mr Anderson Dunn, Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan Police.

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While daylight lasts we must carry on the work of him who sent me; night is coming when no-one can work. While I am in the world I am the light of the world. John 9 : 4,5

BIRTHS

BALL - Congratulations to Wendy and Steven on the birth of their daughter, Lauren (2nd March 1998) love Mum and Dad.

BUCKNALL - On 5th March 1998, in Sydney Australia to Rachel (née Salvesen) and Graham, a daughter, Tiffany Margaret Christian.

COLBOURNE POWER - In Canberra on 4th March to Eleanor and Declan, a daughter, Zoe, a sister for Patrick.

COOPER - On 5th March to Helen (née Stapleton) and Ben, a son, Charles Henry, a brother for Isabel Mary.

COPPEL - Dina and Kevin are delighted to announce the birth of Lauren Helena on March 1st 1998 at The Portland Hospital. A sister for Daniel.

HINGSTON - On 2nd March 1998, to Charlotte (née Stirling) and Peter, a daughter, Rebecca Harriet, a sister for Phoebe and Imogen.

MENDOZA - On March 5th to Neil and Amelia a daughter, Violet Fais.

OLIVER - On Monday February 23rd 1998, to Susan (née Millard) and Paul, a son, Thomas James Alexander, a brother for Angus.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

BELL AND PATSY BENNETT - Happy Ruby Wedding Anniversary, all our love Simon, Tim, Abi, John and Terri.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

MEIKLE:RIDGWAY - On March 9th, 1948 at St Paul's Church, Nicosia, Cyprus by the Reverend W.F. Castle. George Meikle to Jean Ridgway. Present address: Episkopi Village, Limassol, Cyprus.

DEATHS

ABSALOM - Bridget, died 4th March. Commemoration at Chichester Crematorium Friday 13th March at 2.30pm. Enquiries to Wright and Son, Emsworth Tel: 01243 372 255.

af PETERSENS - Lisa. On March 4th 1998, peacefully in Lund, Sweden in her 87th year. Loved mother of Charles and Caroline, farmor to William and Samantha, mormor to Julius, Sebastian and Frederick. Funeral at Löddeköpinge Church, Friday 13th March at 2.00pm.

ARMSTRONG - John Martin 1935-1998 passed peacefully away in his sleep on 4th March 1998 aged 62 years. He will be sadly missed as a husband, father, grandfather and friend. Service at St James Church, Gerrards Cross at 2.15 pm on Thursday 12th March, followed by an interment at Chalfont St Peter Garden of Rest. Flowers and enquiries to H.C. Grimstead, Churchfield Lodge, Churchfield Road, Chalfont St Peter, tel: (01753) 891200.

BERKELEY - Sister Edward NDS, peacefully at Worthing on 7th March aged 96 years. Requiem Mass at Worthing. Interment at Spetchley to be arranged. R.I.P.

ARNOLD - Mary Alexandra, aged 78, peacefully on 5th March at the London Clinic. Widow of Noel, mother of Paul and Timothy, and sister of Jane and Betty. Funeral private, memorial service to be announced later. In lieu of flowers, donations, if desired, to the Leukaemia Research Fund c/o J.H. Kenyon tel: 0171 937 0757.

BISHOP - Beryl Phyllis peacefully on 4th March at The Quinta Nursing Home, Bentley. Beloved widow of Grahaime and step-mother of Wendy. Cremation at Aldershot Crematorium on 12th March at 11:30am. Donations to King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst if desired c/o Kemp & Stevens, 93 High Street, Alton, Hants, GU34 1LG. (01420 83177). Family flowers only.

BLISS - Phyllis Mary (Inman), on 5th March, peacefully in Burwood Nursing Home, Broadstone, Dorset, aged 88 years. Much loved wife of the Reverend Rupert Bliss. Funeral service at Poole Crematorium on Monday 16th March at 12 noon. Flowers acceptable, donations if desired to Cancer Research Campaign. Enquiries to Tapper Funeral Service, 173 The Broadway, Broadstone, Poole. Tel: 01202 694449

FELLOWES-PRYNNE - Gwendolen Sandford, peacefully on 5th March at Brendoncare, Winchester, aged 96 years. Widow of Aubrey Fellowes-Prynne, mother of Rundle, grandmother of Thomas and Philip, great-grandmother of Laura, Katie, Emily, Bethany and Jack. Funeral service at St. Michael & All Angels, Bullington, Nr Winchester on Wednesday 11th March at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Enquiries and donations to The Brendon Nursing Trust Ltd c/o Jno. Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester, SO23 0HU. Tel: 01962 844044.

DUMBRECK - On March 2nd 1998 aged 72 peacefully at Galsworthy House Nursing Home, Kingston-upon-Thames, Helen Grace, wife of David Dumbreck. Funeral Service and cremation have taken place privately.

FISHER - Barbara Penelope Thorburn (née Suttie) on 5th March after a long illness. Died in Sydney. Beloved wife of Thomas and loving mother of Felicity. Funeral in Sydney on 10th March, enquiries to T J Andrews, Funeral Services, 180 Pacific Highway, Hornsby, NSW. Donations, if desired, to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, 15 Britten Street, London SW3.

FORMAN - Peacefully at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee on Thursday March 5th 1998. Angela Eaton, dearly beloved wife of Ian, much loved mother of Peter, David and Sheena, dear mother-in-law of Calla and loving grandmother of Annie. Funeral Service at Dundee Crematorium on Wednesday March 11th at 2.45 pm to which all family and friends are invited. No letters and family flowers only please but donations in lieu of flowers may be made at the Crematorium for the Ninewells Cancer Research Fund.

FRENCH - Ronald Albert formerly of Easton-in-Gordano, Bristol, passed away on March 3rd 1998 aged 84 years. Funeral Service: Monday March 16th Canford Crematorium at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only but if desired donations to St Peters Hospice may be given c/o F.H. Halliday & Son, Funeral Directors, St Peters Court, High Street, Portishead, Bristol, BS20 6PT.

GOODEAR - On March the 6th, suddenly in Florida - Rosemary, dearly loved wife of Richard, daughter of the late John and Joan Halford of Woldingham and sister of Michael. Funeral private.

LEE - Fiona Margaret aged 83 suddenly on March 4th 1998. Beloved wife of the late Tom, mother of Peter, Malcolm and Jonathan and grandmother. Funeral Service at Lodge Hill Crematorium, Selly Oak, Birmingham on Monday March 16th at 2.30 pm. No flowers, donations to The National Trust for the Purposes of Kinver Edge (cheques to Mr. A.G. Phipps, Cliffside, Kinver, DY7 6HQ).

PERRIN - Frances Rosemary on March 6th aged 77 after a brief illness. Formerly of Taunton. Greatly loved and admired by all the family and everyone who knew her indomitable spirit. Funeral at 1.45 on March 19th at St Peter's, Horsham. No flowers, donations to the Church Army.

RODWELL - John aged 56, peacefully at home on 5th March 1998. Much loved husband of Rosamund and father of Nikki and Paul. Private cremation. Family flowers only, but donations for R.N.L.B., may be sent c/o Paul Bysouth Funeral Services, Crowborough. Tel: (01892) 666000.

LEESON - Gordon Thomas retired Solicitor peacefully at home on 5th March 1998. One-time Town Clerk of Chard; Solicitor and Secretary of Yeovil District Council, Deputy Town Clerk of the old Yeovil Borough. A deeply loved and loving husband, father, grandpa, brother and uncle. Greatly loved by Shirley, Tom, Susan and Hamish, and all his family and many friends. Service of Thanksgiving at St Martin of Tours Church, West Coker on Friday 13th March at 1.30 pm followed by cremation. No flowers by Gordon's request. If desired, donations to D. Rivett Funeral Director, Yeovil, tel: 433737 for St Martin's Church, West Coker, or the new defibrillator for Pen Hill Surgery, Yeovil.

SAUNDERS - On Wednesday 4th March Rosemary Saunders (née Balfour) peacefully in hospital. Very dearly loved mother of Adam and Polly, grandmother of Lucy, Georgina, Charlotte, Daisy and Jeremy and great-grandmother of Vera. Cremation private. Thanksgiving Service at Droxford on 1st May at 2.30pm. Donations, if desired, to the Treloar Trust, Upper Froyle, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 4JX.

SIDWELL - Joan Mable died peacefully on March 4th in Purley aged 89. Beloved mother of Bruce and John. Service at Croydon Crematorium on Tuesday March 17th at 2.15 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for Alzheimers Disease Society c/o W.A. Truelove, 109 Stafford Road, Wallington, Surrey SM6 9AP, tel: (0181) 647-1032.

ST. LEGER MOORE - Lt. Cmdr. R.S. (RN Rtd) (DSO) peacefully in The Oaks Hospital, Colchester on Thursday 5th March. Beloved husband of the late Betty, father of Elizabeth and Stephen. Cremation at Colchester Crematorium on Wednesday 11th March at 11.45 am. No flowers, but donations if desired, to M.N.D.A., PO Box 246, Northants NN1 2PR.

THOMPSON - On Saturday 7th March 1998 in Sutton Valence, Major Guy Orpin Thompson ERD, late the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment. Loved by his wife Margaret and his daughters Victoria and Anna, also Belinda and Gini and his many grandchildren.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

BROTCHIE - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Peter Brotchie will be held at the Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street, London W1 on Monday 6th April at 4 pm. There will be refreshments afterwards at Claridges.

GEDDES - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Sir Reay Geddes KBE will be held at St Columba's, Pont Street, London SW1 at 5 pm on Thursday 19th March.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

SENTA MARNAU - 9 March, 1985: ...and take the windes of March with beauty.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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WITH grateful thanks to The Sacred Heart of Jesus and St Jude for favours received. NBO

LEGAL NOTICES

C C MOTORCYCLE TRAINING LIMITED

Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Sterling House, 20 Station Road, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 8EL on 24/3/1998 10.15am for the purpose mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act. Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy together with a full statement of account at the registered office - Sycote Place, 30-38 Cambridge Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire not later than 12 noon on 23/3/1998. For the purposes of voting a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge at Sycote Place, 30-38 Cambridge Street, Aylesbury, before the meeting a statement giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed. Mr Thomas P Dales of Nunn Brown & Dales, Sycote Place, 30-38 Cambridge Street, Aylesbury, Bucks is qualified to act as an Insolvency practitioner in relation to the above company and will furnish creditors free of charge with such information concerning the company's affairs as is reasonably required.
Mr Chris Loy, Director

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: The Lawrence & Hatton Bequest
Reference: EN/73304/ARC.
The Charity Commission have made a Scheme to amend the trusts of this Charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at Regimental Headquarters, The Royal Green Jackets, Peninsula Barracks, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hants SO23 8TS, or, can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference.

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 AND IN THE MATTER OF EPCO SUPPORT SERVICES LIMITED
Company No: 2160848
Registered Office: c/o Baker Tilly, Carlton House, Grammar School Street, Bradford BD1 4NS.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named company will be held at Baker Tilly, Carlton House, Grammar School Street, Bradford BD1 4NS on 13th march 1998 at 10.15 am for the purposes of dealing with Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.
The resolutions to be taken at the meeting may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be remunerated and the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statements of affairs and convening the meeting.
A full list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be examined free of charge at the offices of Baker Tilly, Carlton House, Grammar School Street, Bradford BD1 4NS between 10am and 5pm on the two business days prior to the date of the meeting.
By Order of the Board
G. J. Wrighton, Director
Dated: 3rd March 1998.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
POWERHOUSE TECHNICAL SERVICES LIMITED
(In Members' Voluntary Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above named company is required, on or before 30th April 1998, to send in their full names, addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any), to me, Roderick Julian Jones of B N Jackson Norton, 1 & 2 Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, London WC1R 5BZ, the Liquidator of the company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved. This notice is purely formal. All known creditors have been or should have been paid in fully.
Dated this 4th day of March 1998
R J Jones, Liquidator

Tyeclift Limited
t/a The Pelican Public House
(In Administrative Receivership)
Registered Number: 2836903.
Trading name: The Pelican. Nature of business: Public House. Trade classification: 48. Date of appointment of administrative receiver: 27 February 1998. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Ernest John Morris. Administrative receiver: Patrick Bernard Harrington (office holder no 6626) of Madison Stoneham, Mayfair House, 8 Little London Court, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 3HY.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
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OBITUARIES

SIR ALFRED PUGSLEY



Sir Alfred Pugsley, OBE, FRS, structural engineer died on March 7 aged 94. He was born on May 13, 1903.

One of the leading structural engineering-scientists of the last half-century, Alfred Pugsley came to public notice as a member of the Tribunal of Inquiry on Ronan Point, a block of council flats in East London, an entire corner of which collapsed in May 1968 following a gas explosion and fires, killing five people. Pugsley contributed the section of the report on the disaster which dealt with the structure of the 22-storey building, whose walls he described as being comparable only to "the glass in a good window". It was later claimed by another architect that Pugsley's contribution to the report had been toned down to avoid causing public alarm over other similar local authority owned tower blocks.

Pugsley's original judgement was, indeed, vindicated, although not until years later. In 1984 a complete evacuation of the building by all tenants was ordered by Newham council after a report by an independent architect had reported that the structure was suffering from fatigue. Ronan Point was eventually demolished in 1986.

The safety of structures was to be the hallmark of Pugsley's work as an engineer. He brought new dimensions of scientific understanding to the field and made a lasting contribution to the wider understanding of key factors in designing safe structures. His early work had been in aeronautics, with both airships and heavier than air craft; it was after the war that he concentrated on civil engineering, where he made a great contribution in the field of structures.

Alfred Grenville Pugsley was the son of H. W. Pugsley, a civil servant in the Admiralty and a distinguished amateur botanist. He was educated at Rutlish School, and in 1920 went on to Battersea Polytechnic. On graduating in 1923, he became a civil engineering apprentice at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich.

After completing his apprenticeship, he turned from civil engineering to the rapidly developing field of aeronautics and in 1926, at the age of 23, he joined the design and research team at the Royal Airship Works at Cardington, Bedfordshire. This decision proved an important one, bringing him into an area of structural engineering in which the greatest scientific advances would be made in the coming decades.

At Cardington he joined a young team on the design of the R101 airship. He was an observer on its first full-speed trials. While at Cardington, in 1928 he married Kathleen Warner, whom he had known since his schooldays.

In the 1920s the excitement of airships attracted very able young engineers and scientists, among them Harold Roxbee Cox, later Lord Kings Norton; John, later Lord, Baker; Professor A. J. S. Pippard; and Sir Richard Southwell. The history of airships in Britain in the late 1920s gives a picture of great engineering ingenuity in design but considerable ill-luck in the operation of airships. Subsequent history was to show the superiority of monoplane aircraft.

The airship team at Cardington disbanded around 1930, and in 1931 Pugsley moved to the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough. It was fortunate that he was drawn into the work at Farnborough on aeroplane wing-flutter, which at that time was a genuine source of concern to aircraft designers. With Roxbee Cox, Pugsley developed a wide understanding of aeroplane flutter problems, and together they were able to provide designers with general guidelines on avoiding it.

Pugsley remained at Farnborough throughout the Second World War, becoming head of the structural and mechanical engineering department in 1941. He was an able administrator of research teams, without in any way being officious. He was appointed OBE in 1944.

A number of new interests began to emerge during his later period at Farnborough. He was becoming increasingly conscious of the problems of repeated loading, leading to the fatigue damage of aircraft. Pugsley encouraged the use of speed and acceleration recorders, the forerunners of today's flight recorders.

In 1945 Pugsley was appointed to the chair of civil engineering at Bristol University, where he remained until his retirement in 1968. At the time of his appointment, he was already an established engineering scientist, and an academic career was attractive to him, offering independence in the development of ideas and the opportunity to range freely over the whole field of structural science. He was elected FRS in 1952.

Besides his West of England family connections, Pugsley was attracted to Bristol by Professor Andrew Robertson, who at that time was the head of the engineering school. Bristol had associations with the aeronautical engineering and shipbuilding industries, as well as a heritage in civil engineering represented, notably, by the Clifton suspension bridge.

Many distinguished engineering scientists followed Pugsley to Bristol. By the late 1960s the engineering school had a number of Fellows of the Royal Society on its staff. Yet, in contrast to Farnborough, with its well-equipped research teams, Pugsley had, at first, found himself in Bristol with only a handful of staff and students, and very modest laboratory resources. But he identified a number of key areas which would influence structural engineering in the long term. He extended his work in the field of structural safety; in particular, he saw an immediate extension of his work in aeroplane flutter to suspension bridges. He was chairman of the Aeronautical Research Council from 1952 to 1957 and was knighted in 1956.

In 1968 he was awarded the gold medal of the Institution of Structural Engineers, of which he had been president in 1957-58.

In 1968 he retired from his chair. But he developed a number of historical interests. His conducted tours of the historic bridges of the Avon River were popular both with engineers and laymen.

Though a man of great achievements in structural engineering science, Alfred Pugsley remained a modest person, unassuming in manner and wholly unpretentious. He believed that teaching and research should be aimed at nurturing the intrinsic skills and interests of individual students and staff. In this he encouraged others to attain their own ambitions.

His wife Kathleen died in 1974. They had no children.

HENRY STEELE COMMAGER



Henry Steele Commager, historian, died on March 2 aged 95. He was born on October 25, 1902.

AT THE ripe old age of 90, in his *Commager on Tocqueville* — an interpretation of *Democracy in America* — Henry Steele Commager observed of the French thinker that "he had an instinct for the jugular vein in history". The same could be said of Henry Steele Commager, one of the most distinguished historians, pedagogues, essayists and writers on America this century. For nearly seven decades (from his appointment to the history faculty at New York University until his death) there were few scholarly voices more self-assured than his was. Inevitably, this led his colleagues to refer to "Commager's No 1 Rule: I'm always right".

Commager, however, was convinced not just of his own rightness, but also of that of the American people. Generations of his readers learnt that theirs was indeed "a truly admirable country", one that picked itself off the ground if ever it stumbled. A man who described himself as "an independent Democrat", he was a Jeffersonian liberal of a classic cut who once wrote that the US Constitution was "the greatest monument to political science in history".

The Constitution, in fact, was Commager's true passion, and led him famously to confront Senator Joe McCarthy, at a time when such combat was regarded as foolish at best and dangerous at worst. In 1947 he wrote an essay in *Harper's* magazine, attacking loyalty oaths as "an abuse of power that violated the Constitution" and unlawfully resulted in the loss of livelihood to those Americans who refused to sign them.

The ire of McCarthy, however, failed to impede the serene progress of Henry Steele Commager's academic career, the roots of which lay in a childhood steeped in books. Orphaned before he was ten years old, the boy was raised by his maternal grandfather, a Danish Lutheran clergyman who lived in Chicago. His grandfather made him earn his pocket-money by doing odd jobs in the local library, thus prompting a lifelong fascination with texts of all types.

Although Commager believed that reading was the greatest of all pursuits, his attachment to the word was never a pedantic one. Books had to be readable, he insisted, if students were expected to be interested in them. "History is a story," he once wrote, "and if history forgets or neglects to tell a story, it will inevitably forfeit much of its appeal and much of its authority as well."

Commager's own texts, for their part, lacked neither appeal nor authority. *The Growth of the American Republic*, written in 1930 with Samuel Eliot Morrison, has been for more than 60 years one of the basic texts for students of American history. (It has been updated often, with William Leuchtenberg joining in collaboration in 1969.)

The book, Commager's first, might be described as the key to his own ideology, and was the beginning of his lifelong association with the Constitution. He pursued that passion in his next major book, *The American Mind*, published in 1951 while he was a professor of history at Columbia University. Subtitled "An Interpretation of American Thought and Character Since the 1880s", the book described the country's first century as one of unparalleled progress. "Nothing in all history had ever succeeded like America," he wrote, "and every American knew it."

It would be a mistake, however, to detect in his work the hand of a crude nationalist. On the contrary, Commager felt that it was his duty — as scholar and citizen — to demand of America, and its administrators, the highest standards of behaviour and legality. This could be seen, most vividly, in his forthright opposition to America's involvement in Vietnam.

Addressing a student meeting in 1966 at Amherst College in Massachusetts, where he had moved as professor in 1956, he said: "Having the United States in Vietnam is like having the Chinese invade the shores of Long Island." That same year, he appealed to Congress "on constitutional grounds" to "reassert its authority over the waging of war", which he felt had been wrested away by the Executive.

Commager was also an intellectual polemicist. His finest work, *The Empire of Reason: How Europe Imagined and America Realised the Enlightenment*, asserted that it was the Americans of the late 18th and early 19th centuries who had the *chutzpah* to put into practice those principles which "enlightened" Europe could previously only imagine.

A popular figure on campus, Commager often had trouble remembering the names of his students, referring to most of them as Mr or Miss "McGillicuddy". Yet his memory was prodigious enough for him to recite entire stories by P. G. Wodehouse, his favourite author.

Commager is survived by his second wife Mary and their two daughters. His first wife, Evan Carroll, predeceased him.

SIR BERNARD LEDWIDGE

Sir Bernard Ledwidge, KCMG, former Ambassador to Israel and Finland, died on February 20 aged 82. He was born on November 9, 1915.

SIR BERNARD LEDWIDGE was British Ambassador to Israel at the time of the Yom Kippur War 25 years ago. Visiting London when the Egyptians and Syrians suddenly stormed Israel's defences, he hurried back to a situation which called for all his diplomtic skill. Britain's refusal — fearing Arab reprisals — to supply the embattled Israelis with spare parts for their British equipment was to tarnish its image in blacked-out Tel Aviv.

But Ledwidge had built up strong contacts with Golda Meir and her Government, including her Defence Minister Moshe Dayan. It says much for his delicate handling of the crisis in relations between the two countries that he was invited back there after his retirement.

He was accustomed to finding himself in the front stalls when history was being made. Before going to Israel in 1972 he had been Britain's envoy in Helskinki when the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (Salt) opened there between the Americans and Russians three years earlier, at the start of their stumbling progress towards détente.

Throughout the middle 1960s, moreover, he had been number two in the Paris Embassy, including a long spell as chargé d'affaires before Sir Christopher Soames arrived to take over from Sir Patrick Reilly as Ambassador. He was there when in 1966 President de Gaulle led the French forces out of Nato and threw Nato's headquarters out of France; and also in the following year when the French "Non" blocked Britain's entry into Europe.

In 1982, however, after starting a second career as a writer, Ledwidge was to publish a biography of de Gaulle. His well-researched and objective analysis was well received not only in Britain but also in France.

William Bernard John Ledwidge was born in London into a half-Irish, Roman Catholic family. From Cardinal Vaughan School in Kensington, he won a scholarship to King's College, Cambridge, to read Classics. He took a first, then in 1937 won a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship to Princeton, returning when the Second World War broke out. Commissioned into the Royal Artillery, he was posted to the



Indian Army in 1941 and served for the rest of the war in the Far East before being demobilised with the rank of major.

Ledwidge began his career in the India Office, working as private secretary to its Permanent Under-Secretary just after the war, then as secretary to the Frontier Areas Committee of Inquiry before the India Office closed.

Transferred to the Foreign Office, he spent some time in the South-East Asia department before going to St Louis, Missouri, as consul aid, in 1952, to Afghanistan as head of chancery in the Embassy.

He spent five years as a political adviser to the military government in Berlin, returning to Whitehall in 1961 to head the Foreign Office's Western European department. This was a key appointment, especially at the time of Britain's first application to join the Common Market, and Ledwidge's performance in it helped to secure him his posting to Paris in 1965.

Retiring from Israel in 1975, he served as a member of the Police Complaints Board, 1977-82, and as chairman of the British committee of Unicef 1976-89. But Ledwidge's principal occupation was now that of writer. After his marriage to his first wife Anne had been dissolved in 1970, he had married the successful French novelist Flora Groult — who was to help and encourage his literary aspirations.

He produced a novel, *Frontiers*, based on his experiences in Afghanistan, in 1979, and a collection of short stories in French, *Nouvelles de la Famille*, written jointly with his wife's family, in 1980.

His book on de Gaulle was followed in 1984 by a sequel in French, *De Gaulle et les Américains*, then three years later by something completely different *Sappho, la première voix de femme*. The last of these was said to reflect not only his scholar's love of poetry and Greek culture but also his and his wife's sympathy with feminism.

Ledwidge was himself a natural linguist who even learnt some Pushtu and Finnish during his career and lived partly in Paris in recent years. He was a big man, a highly-respected professional with a sharp intellect and a refreshingly direct manner. But he liked to relax in the company of friends, enjoying good conversation.

Bernard Ledwidge, who suffered a severe stroke more than four years ago, is survived by his second wife Flora and by a son and daughter from his first marriage.

WING COMMANDER CHRISTOPHER DEANESLY

Wing Commander Christopher Deanesly, DFC, wartime fighter pilot, died on February 19 aged 88. He was born on January 27, 1910.

ALTHOUGH Christopher Deanesly did not achieve the magic figure of five combat victories to enable him to qualify as an ace, his tally of four "kills", shot down at night in a single month, is much more meritorious than it might seem to the layman. The time was early 1941. The London Blitz was at its height. Night-fighting tactics were still in their infancy. The best equipment, the powerful, radar equipped Beaufighter with its formidable battery of four forward-firing cannon and six machineguns, had not yet been issued to 256 Squadron, of which Deanesly was a flight commander.

No 256 was still operating the Boulton Paul Defiant which mounted a mere four machine guns firing from a dorsal turret. This prevented the aircraft from engaging targets dead ahead, or from above, and rendered it vulnerable to the nose gunners of enemy bombers. The design had suffered appalling daytime casualties in the air fighting of 1940 when enemy fighters had shot it down in droves in head-on attacks. It required great skill and co-operation between the pilot and the air gunner, isolated in his power-operated turret, to achieve the success it did in the hands of 256.

Between Deanesly and his air gunner there was perfect understanding. And in the spring of 1941 his Defiant shot down four German bombers while defending British airspace, gaining Deanesly a well-earned DFC.

Christopher Deanesly was the son of a Wolverhampton surgeon. He was educated at Wellington College and Birmingham University, where he read commerce. At the same time he became a part-time soldier, serving for six years with the South Staffordshire Territorials in the 1930s. In 1937 he turned to flying, with No 605 County of Warwick Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force. It was at this period he acquired the nickname "Jumbo" by which he was ever afterwards known, because of his considerable bulk, a comforting factor if one was on his side in a tight corner.

But when hostilities opened in September 1939 he was posted to No 152 Hyderabad Squadron, with which he fought throughout the Battle of Britain. He was twice shot down during the Battle. In July 1940 his Spitfire had to ditch in the sea after being hit by return fire from a Ju87 over the Channel, and in September he was shot down over the sea again. He was wounded on both occasions.

These somewhat dispiriting circumstances might have discouraged a less resolute man, but his nerve held, and he survived to become a well-respected nightfighter pilot and wingleader. After his spell on night-fighting he went to North Africa where he commanded fighter wings during the desert campaign and subsequently in the Mediterranean theatre from January 1943 to March 1944. In the run-up to D-Day he was back in Britain training glider pilots for the invasion, and during the Rhine crossings of spring 1945 he commanded a glider towing squadron.

Returning to civilian life after the end of the war in the Far East, he ran a plastics business in Birmingham, retiring in 1971.

He is survived by his wife, Kuni, whom he had married as a WAAF officer in 1941, and by their two daughters.



Latest wills

Lord Grey of Codnor, of High Legh, Knutsford, Cheshire, left estate valued at £552,998 net.

Lord Glanusk, Chairman W&G *Instruments* 1981-87, of Mallorca, Spain, left estate valued at £169,679 net.

Lady Brook, Founder and President of the Brook Advisory Centre for Young People, of London, NW8, left estate valued at £841,707 net.

Lady Butler, of Sedgehill, Shaftesbury, Dorset, left estate valued at £241,899 net.

Lady Parkes, of Cambridge, left estate valued at £858,272 net.

Sir John Arnold Farr, Tory MP for Harborough 1959-92, of Shortwood, Lamport, Northamptonshire, left estate valued at £6,057,613 net.

The Right Reverend John Ernest Llewellyn Mort, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Leicester since 1972, of Old Woodhouse, Loughborough, Leicestershire, left estate valued at £451,243 net.
He left shares in his residuary estate to Malvern College, Worcestershire.

Douglas David Evans, of Rothersthorpe, Northamptonshire, left estate valued at £605,400 net.

Gordon de Gruchy Gabb, of Newton, Swansea, left estate valued at £527,160 net.

Geoffrey Egerton Knight, of London SW3, left estate valued at £889,627 net.

Douglas George Morgan Lee, of Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, left estate valued at £525,652 net.

Peter MacGregor, of Taunton, Somerset, left estate valued at £668,251 net.

Eric Payne Moxon, of Winchester, Hampshire, left estate valued at £993,009 net.

Bertha Ellen Murray, of Furze Hill, Hove, East Sussex, left estate valued at £987,813 net.
She left £25,000 to Copperciff Nursing Home, Brighton and to the Abbeyfield Society.

Henry Reginald Payne, of Priddy, Wells, Somerset, left estate valued at £673,078 net.

Joseph John Plaister, farmer, of Westori-super-Mare, Somerset, left estate valued at £503,294 net.

Sydney Keith Prestige, of Sunningdale, Ascot, Berkshire, left £498,654 net.
He left £1,000 to Guide Dogs for the Blind, £500 to Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, East Lothian, and Sunningdale Golf Club.

Esme Maria Rowse, of Hove, East Sussex, left estate valued at £712,066 net.
She left shares in her residuary estate to the RNLI and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Ada Simonow, of East Finchley, London N2, left estate valued at £949,707 net.

Bertie James Slade, of Ferndown, Dorset, left estate valued at £555,392 net.

Mary Bluett Smith, of Wherstead, Ipswich, left estate valued at £746,943 net.
She left £50,000 to the Royal Alfred Seafarers Society, of Banstead, and to King George's Fund for Sailors; £2,000 to the Orwell residents' account of Orwell Nursing Home, Wherstead, plus ten times the annual covenanted amount she has already paid to the following charities: RNLI, SCOPE, RSPB, Multiple Sclerosis Society, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Association for International Cancer Research, Salvation Army, Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, Barnardos, NSPCC, Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society, Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society, Leukaemia Research Fund, Royal Star and Garter Home, Oxfam, Water Aid and the Council of the National Association for Mental Health.

James Harry Stafford, of Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire, left estate valued at £519,616 net.
He left shares in his estate to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

Norman Beeston Tupholme, of Dell Beauchief, Sheffield, left estate valued at £667,288 net.

Una Clare Ward, of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, left estate valued at £497,483 net.

Ian Ronald White, of Warsill, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, left estate valued at £542,807 net.

Willi Seev Wilder, of London NW8, estate valued at £850,622 net.

THE QUEEN IN LONDON.
THE PEOPLE'S WELCOME.

The announcement that the Queen would visit London was unexpected, and, coming as it did at a time when the public mind was filled with satisfaction at the successes of our arms in South Africa, it afforded a most favourable opportunity for the manifestation of those feelings of loyal devotion with which the hearts of her Majesty's subjects are filled to overflowing.

THE ARRIVAL AT PADDINGTON.

(From Our Special Correspondents.)

Just before half-past 12, the procession was formed and set out at a walking pace from the station. As the Queen's carriage passed the steps leading from the platform to the Great Western Hotel, a hearty cheer was given which her Majesty acknowledged with gracious inclinations, and then as, a few seconds later, the procession, with its scarlet-coated outriders, its mounted police, and its escort of cavalry emerged into the public thoroughfare, the cheering grew in volume and in strength. The Queen met with a truly great reception — a reception which for loyalty, heartiness, enthusiasm could not be surpassed. Her Majesty has endeared herself to her people during the present war in a way which cannot be described. The spirit which makes her soldiers proud to die for her animates the whole of her subjects, and that spirit found expression yesterday.

It was the same along the whole route: one part was neither more nor less demonstrative than another. The people were almost wild with devotion, and one incessant cheer rolled out into the chill air from Paddington to Buckingham Palace. At Victoria Gate, in Hyde Park, and at Apsley Gate the same demonstrations were made, flags were waved, handkerchiefs fluttered in the breeze, and the people, with passionate fervour, shouted their greetings to the Queen.

One little circumstance it may be well to record at a moment when public feeling has been so painfully aroused by the attacks upon her Majesty in the Continental Press. The Queen, on her way through Hyde Park, passed by the French Embassy, and here, in honour of her Majesty, the tricolour had been hoisted and floated a conspicuous object among the many British flags to be seen in the neighbourhood. The crowds at Hyde Park-corner were exceedingly dense, and as the Queen made her appearance here, on her way from the Park to Constitution Hill, scenes similar to those already described were again to be witnessed.

It was an extraordinary manifestation, such as only the Queen could have called forth. Her solicitude, her tact, her devotion to the country and the Empire during the last few anxious months have profoundly touched her subjects, and now that the turn in the tide has come, and the painful suspense of the nation has been relieved, their gratitude to the Sovereign who is the symbol of the Empire has found expression in a demonstration by which her Majesty was visibly affected and which deserves to live in the history of her unrivalled reign.

ON THIS DAY

March 9, 1900

After the Prince Consort's death in 1861, London saw Queen Victoria only rarely. These extracts are from more than 4,000 words that one visit to the capital drew from The Times.

NEWS

Royal family to lose Lords' seat

■ Prince William will be the first heir to the throne not to win an automatic seat in the House of Lords under reforms being considered by the Government.

The idea has emerged from the Cabinet committee which is drawing up plans to abolish hereditary peerages. Buckingham Palace would not oppose the plan. Page 1

Gunman in Waco holds off police

■ A lone gunman with explosives smashed his way into a government agency for ex-servicemen in Waco, Texas, and held off police in a siege as hundreds of residents were evacuated. The police said that the man, 61, drove his car through a gate at the Veterans Administration building. He was carrying a high-powered rifle, had a list of demands and was negotiating with police Page 1

Voting reform

Britain could have a new electoral system in time for the next general election after an important shift in attitudes in the Labour Party leadership Page 1

Prescott row

John Prescott faces a Commons investigation after allegedly breaking the rules over a £28,000 political donation which he failed to register Pages 1, 2

Airline strike

Thousands of passengers were stranded at Dublin airport after Aer Lingus cancelled all flights because their employees refused to cross trade union pickets erected in support of a rival airline Page 1

Health trust sued

A father and daughter are suing a healthcare trust over child abuse allegations she made while under medication Page 5

'Mad cow' inquiry

More than 300 ministers, former ministers and civil servants have been told that they may be required to give evidence at the public inquiry into "mad cow" disease Page 6

Pig intelligence test

Scientists are delving into the minds of domestic pigs to discover whether the animals are as clever as is popularly believed. The work at Bristol will take three years Page 7

Ladies' loaves

British bakers are to challenge the success of the Australian ladies' loaf, which is aimed at menopausal women, with their own version Page 9

Tuckshop tycoons

Tony Blair wants schools to teach children as young as nine the thrills and skills of running a business. He believes that encouraging a generation of tuckshop tycoons will help a new enterprise culture Page 10

Serb search

Serb security forces in Kosovo were last night intensifying their search for so-called ethnic Albanian terrorists Page 11

Israeli talks

The Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, spent 90 minutes in "constructive and friendly" talks with Tony Blair in Downing Street yesterday discussing ways to restart the deadlocked peace process Page 12

My Lai heroes

Thirty years after the My Lai massacre, three Americans who turned their guns on fellow soldiers in order to save Vietnamese civilians have received recognition as heroes Page 15

Voices of doom

The spirits of the dead have joined the political and economic forces that threaten to overwhelm President Mugabe Page 16

Monty Python flies again

■ Five middle-aged men and an urn of ashes yesterday offered hope of a big new showbusiness comeback. Monty Python's Flying Circus is taking off again. The ashes supposedly belonged to Graham Chapman who died in 1989 but was brought along when the team reunited in public for the first time in 18 years at a weekend comedy festival Page 3



Swan Lake, a diamond brooch, is among jewellery once owned by Dame Margot Fonteyn being auctioned by Christie's tomorrow

BUSINESS

Bank bid: The Halifax is to launch a £800 million bid for Birmingham Midshires, topping the Royal Bank of Scotland's offer for the building society Page 52

Rescue: Britain's largest life insurance companies will meet today to secure a rescue deal for firms of financial advisers facing bankruptcy over compensation payouts for pensions mis-selling Page 52

Return: Michael Milken, the disgraced junk bond trader fined $47 million, is back in business with Larry Ellison of Oracle, one of the US's largest software companies Page 49

Safeway: Fraser Nelson profiles the troubled retailer which looks increasingly vulnerable to a takeover bid Page 48

FEATURES

Grey matter: As European Brain Day nears, Anjana Ahuja looks at neurological research that points to a possible physical basis for dyslexia Page 17

Eating programme: Dietary advice is wasted on most people, Nigel Hawkes reports. It is their genes, rather than devotion to a particular diet, that determine whether it works Page 17

Name game: The New York designer Marc Jacobs has been hired to turn Louis Vuitton, famous for monogrammed luggage, into a symbol of post-modern chic Page 18

Salon society: The host and hostess have returned to London intellectual circles, and drawing rooms are being recolonised by the chattering classes Page 19

Melvyn Bragg: "It is in the objects in daily use that we may have to look for fine work. The Italians demand style and it is produced to meet that demand" Page 20

Belated bow: Sixty years after it was written, Tennessee Williams's early play, *Not About Nightingales*, receives its world premiere at the National Theatre, thanks to Vanessa Redgrave Page 20

Hollywood hero: Whether he's portrayed as action man or sex-obsessed villain, the American President has become the film role of the 1990s Page 21

High notes: Welsh National Opera's production of Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito* may not have much going for it, but musically it's another story Page 21



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ ARTS
London celebrates the photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson

■ LAW
Geoffrey Robertson, QC, recalls the trial which followed the staging of *The Romans in Britain* (left)

Motor racing: In a bizarre end to a bizarre race, Mika Hakkinen was waved through by his McLaren teammate David Coulthard to win the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne, the first Formula One race of the 1998 season Page 28

FA Cup: Newcastle were drawn to play Sheffield United or Coventry while Wolves face West Ham or Arsenal in the semi-finals Page 27

Football: The Birmingham City chairman hopes to persuade Trevor Francis to return for a conciliation meeting after the manager resigned this weekend Page 33

Cricket: England's batsmen set out to match the large Barbados total of 472-6 declared after their bowlers toiled on a good wicket on the second day Page 29

Rugby union: As the Rugby Football Union and the clubs argue over players' allegiance, the coming week will be crucial for the sport Page 38

Golf: Scot Andrew Coltart secured his first European Tour title when he won the inaugural Qatar Masters by two strokes from Andrew Sherborne and Patrick Sjoland Page 39

4, 11, 14, 39, 43, 44. Bonus: 37. Two tickets each won £4,020,964; 13 won £190,341 for five numbers and the bonus; 1,035 won £1,494 for five; 62,099 won £54 for four; 1,135,821 won £10 for three.

Preview: First of a four-part dramatisation: *Our Mutual Friend* (BBC-2, 9pm). **Review:** Paul Hoggart on a disturbing psychological thriller Pages 50, 51

Zhu's big bang

The more effectively Zhu Rongji can free the running of the economy from political interference now, the easier it will be for him to deal with the rising demands for political reform Page 23

Not so fast

If it is Labour which now chooses to reject the path of consensus and dialogue, then reform of the Lords could become a quagmire for Labour Page 23

A pig's best friend

The ancients learnt anatomy from the bodies and entrails of pigs. Today's researchers want to learn about their brains. If they find that porcine intelligence is as manipulative as our own, will we be flattered or repulsed? Page 23

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

I spent last week in Hong Kong, and found an almost unanimous view that the relationship with China has been much better than anyone foresaw at the time of the handover Page 22

PETER RIDDELL

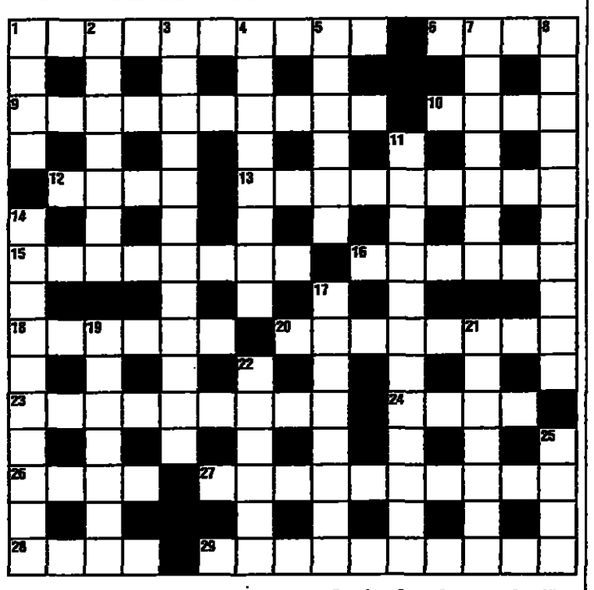
The decision is not just a take-it or leave-it option for Mr Blair. The Lib Dems could be useful allies, both in the Commons and in fulfilling his hope of creating a progressive alliance Page 22

Sir Alfred Pugsley, structural engineer; **Henry Steele Commager**, historian; **Sir Bernard Ledwidge**, diplomat; **Wing Commander Christopher Dearnsley** Page 25

Future of work: constitutional reform; Sierra Leone; rail safety; bishops Page 23

Bosnia should have shown that the Serbs understand only the language of force. It was the Nato bombing of Serb positions which paved the way for the Dayton settlement. The Contact Group must show it has learned the lessons and confront Milosevic decisively, prepared to use force *La Repubblica*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,734



ACROSS

1 Cook makes tarts for a demanding employer (10).
6 Broadcast supporting member (4).
9 Mental ability of supporter holding political office (10).
10 Northern girl requires Southern girl's backing (4).
12 Avenging spirit's violent passion (4).
13 Speak at length, but make amends for taking a time (9).
15 Podgy fellow introducing learner to old college (4-4).
16 Request a former PM to speak (6).
18 Keeping a low profile, back down (6).
20 Departing relative's suspect behaviour (6-2).
23 A manipulative type, with strings attached, possibly (9).
24 Intoxicated, but able to win a trick (4).
26 Coral reef's no longer a ring (4).
27 Smugly virtuous pair of old women (5-5).
28 Rather dreary setting for such ordinary people (4).
29 Get it where market trader may keep spare stock (10).

DOWN

1 One produces low music, giving rise to an objection (4).
2 Sullage could be bad for this bird (7).
3 Lucrative venture — device to make bread roll? (5-7).
4 Nothing new in tinker being slipshod (8).
5 Free from former futile cut (6).
7 Issue English volunteers raised after call-up (7).
8 Anthology produced by fellow unknown outside one's small group (10).
11 Get a move on and suppress the idle chatter (4,2,3,3).
14 Obstruct plot, being a peevish type (10).
17 Food commonly served behind bars (8).
19 University in London area is widely approved (7).
21 She's married abroad, so a ring must be taken out (7).
22 Grieve for bird no longer living in part of the Highlands (6).
25 How trucks deliver goods for mass producer (4).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,733 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 52

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.29 am — Sun sets: 5.55 pm

Moon sets 4.41am — Moon rises 2.15pm

First quarter etc
London 5.55 pm to 6.27 am
Bristol 6.04 pm to 6.36 am
Edinburgh 6.03 pm to 6.42 am
Manchester 6.01 pm to 6.36 am
Penzance 6.17 pm to 6.47 am

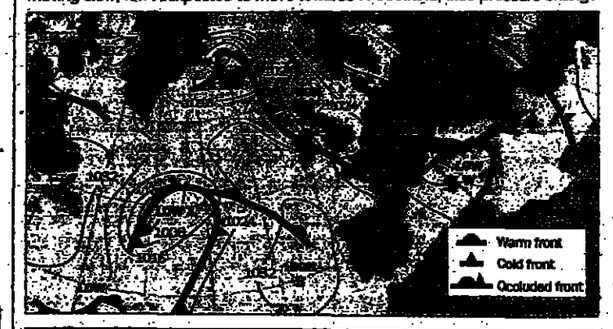
NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997

TOP OF THE POPS
What makes Cedar WPA's most popular private health scheme? Comprehensive cover, value-for-money, and the best customer service of them all.
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Western Provident Association
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WEATHER



Changes to chart from noon: high A to move S, building slightly; low W to deepen, moving slow; low X expected to move towards N Scotland, little pressure change



Forecast for midday today

☐ **General:** N Ireland, W Wales and SW England will start with outbreaks of light rain, but will brighten. The rest of England and Wales will be mainly fine after early frost. Light wintry showers possible on North Sea coasts. Much of Scotland will be dry with sunny spells. The far NW will have rain and hill-snow later.
Tonight will be dry, cold and frosty across the S and E but the N and W will be cloudier and breezier with rain and sleet arriving in N. Ireland and W Scotland later.
☐ **London, SE England, E and W Midlands, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N and NE England:** early frost. Mostly dry and bright, sunny spells. Wind light and variable. Max 9C (48F).
☐ **E Anglia, E England:** early frost, with light wintry shower possible near coast. Mostly dry, sunny spells. Wind light to moderate, north or northeast. Max 8C (45F).
☐ **SW England, S and N Wales, N Ireland:** cloudy morning with patchy light rain and hill-sleet. Brighter in afternoon. Wind light, variable or northeast. Max 9C (48F).
☐ **Central S England, Channel Is:** early cloud, isolated showers. Sunny spells later. Wind light to moderate, east. Max 9C (48F).
☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll:** mainly dry, sunny spells. Wind light and variable. Max 8C (46F).
☐ **NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** sunny spells after frosty start. Cloudier in afternoon with risk of light rain and hill-snow after dark. Wind light and variable, becoming southwest and freshening. Max 7C (45F).
☐ **Irish Republic:** cloudy but mainly dry, showers in east. Brighter in afternoon. Wind light, southwest. Max 10C (50F).
☐ **Outlook:** wet and windy in North and West with a temporary fall of snow over hills. Dry in the South until evening.

Actual weather yesterday

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	10.2	0.05	7	45	s	Leeds	3.6	0.01	7	45	r
Anglesey	8.7	0.02	9	48	s	Lerwick	0.3	0.01	3	37	sl
Aspatria	4.7	0.09	7	45	sh	Littlehmptn	5.4	0.03	14	57	s
Aviemore	9.3	0.01	5	41	s	London	3.9	0.09	10	50	sh
Belfast	2.6	0.04	7	45	r	Lowestoft	0.8	0.08	7	45	sh
Birmingham	0.8	0.06	7	45	sh	Manchester	1.9	0.07	7	45	sh
Bognor R	6.3	0.02	12	54	b	Margate	2.6	0.01	10	50	b
Bournem'th	1.9	0.04	11	52	sh	Minehead	0.9	0.09	10	50	sh
Bristol	0.5	0.09	10	50	c	Morecambe	1.6	0.06	7	45	b
Buxton	0.1	0.19	3	37	b	Newcastle	6.1	0.10	7	45	s
Cardiff	X	0.09	11	52	sh	Norwich	0.2	0.20	7	45	r
Clacton	2.9	0.02	8	46	c	Penzance	X	0.05	13	55	sh
Cleethorpes	4.0	0.01	7	45	s	Poole	1.9	0.03	12	54	c
Cromer	1.0	0.02	5	41	c	Prestatyn	X	0.01	9	48	c
Edinburgh	6.4	0.09	8	46	s	Ross on Wye	X	0.07	10	50	c
Eskdalemuir	8.1	0.04	6	43	sh	Salcombe	5.8	-	12	54	s
Exmouth	2.3	0.01	12	54	sh	Seaton Snd	2.0	-	10	50	du
Falmouth	2.0	0.04	12	54	c	Shrewsbury	3.1	0.01	8	46	b
Fishguard	4.4	0.08	9	48	r	Skegness	2.7	0.01	8	43	s
Folkestone	6.3	0.13	11	52	sh	Southend	4.2	0.03	11	52	sh
Glasgow	3.0	0.01	846			Southport	X	0.02	7	46	b
Guernsey	1.4	0.09	13	55	c	Stornoway	6.8	0.01	7	46	s
Hastings	5.0	0.03	12	54	b	Swanage	1.5	0.07	12	54	c
Hayling I.	4.0	0.04	12	54	r	Teignmouth	1.5	0.04	13	55	sh
Hone	4.0	0.04	12	54	b	Tenby	3.6	0.01	11	52	s
Hunstanton	0.3	0.01	6	43	b	Tiree	4.6	0.01	7	46	b
Isle of Man	6.7	0.10	8	46	b	Torquay	1.8	0.01	13	55	b
Isle of Wight	3.3	0.01	11	52	b	Tynemouth	..	0.01	8	48	s
Jersey	1.9	0.08	11	52	r	Weston s Mare	..	0.01	11	52	c
Kinloss	9.5	0.01	7	45	s	Weymouth	2.3	0.06	12	54	sh

Overseas weather

Ajaccio	17	63	s	Corfu	17	63	s	Malaga	21	70	s
Alicante	17	63	f	C'phagn	-1	30	sn	Malta	19	66	s
Alex'dria	19	66	f	Dublin	10	50	c	Majorca	18	64	s
Algiers	25	77	s	Dubrovnik	14	57	s	Mexico C	24	75	s
Amst'dam	11	52	f	Faro	23	73	s	Miami	28	79	s
Athens	17	63	s	Florence	12	54	c	Milan	17	63	s
B Aires	26	79	c	Frankfurt	9	48	r	Montreal	0	32	X
Bahrain	19	66	f	Funchal	24	75	s	Moscow	-2	28	s
Bangkok	35	95	s	Geneva	15	59	f	Munich	14	57	f
Barbados	29	84	s	Gibraltar	18	64	s	N Delhi	21	70	s
Barcelona	17	63	s	Helsinki	-4	25	s	N York	8	46	f
Beijing	11	52	s	Hong K	19	66	c	Nairobi	27	81	s
Beirut	18	64	f	Innsbruck	13	55	s	Naples	17	63	f
Belgrade	17	63	s	Istanbul	9	48	s	Nice	15	59	s
Berlin	10	50	r	Jeddah	27	81	s	Oslo	-3	27	f
Bermuda	18	64	f	Jo'burg	X			Paris	15	59	f
Biarritz	17	63	c	L Angeles	14	57	s	Perth	31	88	f
Bordx'x	15	59	c	L Palmas	27	81	s	Prague	11	52	f
Brussels	11	52	r	La Toquet	11	52	f	Reykjavik	-3	18	s
Budapst	11	52	r	Lisbon	22	72	s	Rhodes	18	64	s
Cairo	18	64	f	Locarno	15	59	s	Rio de J	34	93	f
Cape Tn	X			Luxembg	8	46	r	Riyadh	13	55	f
Ch'church	15	59	X	Luxor	25	77	s	Rome	15	59	c
Chicago	4	39	f	Madrid	18	64	s	S Fr'isco	9	48	f
Cologne	11	52	f	Majorca	18	64	s	S Paulo	X		
								Salzburg	12	54	f
								Santiago	24	75	s
								Seoul	14	57	s
								Sing'por	31	88	f
								St'kholm	0	32	f
								Sresto'ng	11	52	f
								Sydney	29	68	s
								Tangier	23	73	s
								Tel Aviv	17	63	f
								Tenerife	25	77	s
								Tokyo	10	50	s
								Toronto	5	41	c
								Tunis	21	70	s
								Valencia	27	81	s
								Vanc'ver	5	41	c
								Venice	13	55	s
								Vienna	13	55	f
								Warsaw	2	36	r
								Wash'ton	X		
								Wel'ngton	23	73	X
								Zurich	13	55	f

Temperatures at midday local time on Saturday. X = not available

Tides

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	10:04	3.9	10:48	3.6	Liverpool	7:37	7.6	8:17	7.8
Avonmouth	2:53	10.1	3:43	10.4	London Bridge	9:51	6.2	10:34	6.2
Belfast	7:25	3.1	8:13	3.0	Lowestoft	6:11	2.2	6:24	2.2
Cardiff	2:39	9.5	3:29	8.7	Margate	8:00	4.0	8:46	4.0
Devonport	1:37	4.4	2:27	4.3	Milford Haven	2:25	5.3	3:05	5.4
Dover	7:24	5.5	8:01	5.6	Newquay	1:25	5.4	2:03	5.5
Dublin	8:13	3.7	8:50	3.7	Oban	3:11	3.0	3:30	3.1
Falmouth	1:06	4.2	1:58	4.1	Penzance	0:48	4.4	1:28	4.4
Greenock	8:11	2.8	9:42	2.7	Portland	2:20	1.3	3:21	1.2
Harwich	6:02	3.4	6:38	3.3	Portsmouth	7:54	3.9	8:37	4.0
Holyhead	7:03	4.6	7:43	4.7	Shoreham	7:26	5.0	8:09	5.1
Hull (Albert D)	2:25	7.3	3:06	7.4	Southampton	7:13	3.7	7:57	3.8
Ilfracombe	2:02	7.1	2:47	7.2	Swansea	2:18	7.5	2:57	7.6
King's Lynn	2:39	5.1	3:10	5.2	Tees	-	-	12:21	4.8
Leith	11:13	4.6	11:59	4.7	Weston-On-Neze	7:59	3.6	8:37	3.5

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Littlehampton, West Sussex, 14C (57F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, -3C (27F); highest rainfall: Capel Curig, Aberconwy & Colwyn, 0.40in; highest sunshine: Aberdeen, 10.2hr.

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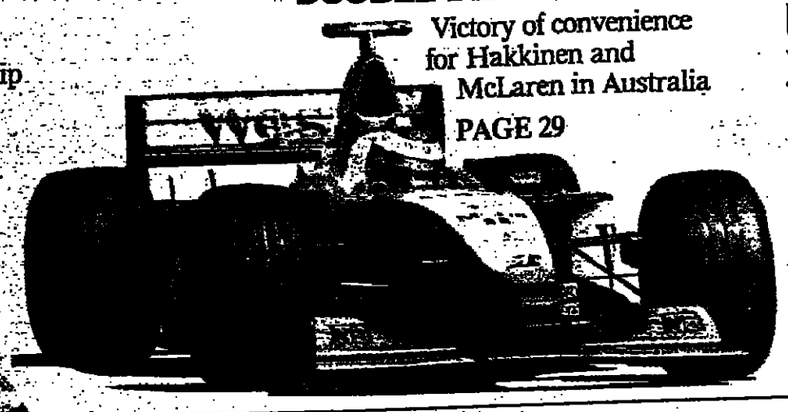
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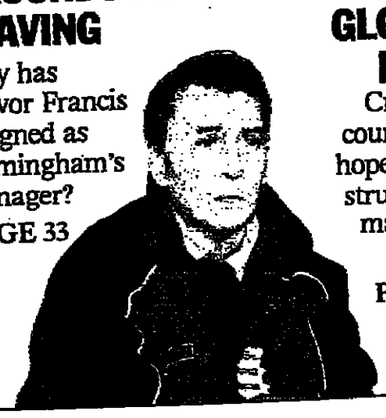
UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

FRENCH FALLIBILITY
Pluck of the Irish revives Five Nations Championship
PAGE 37

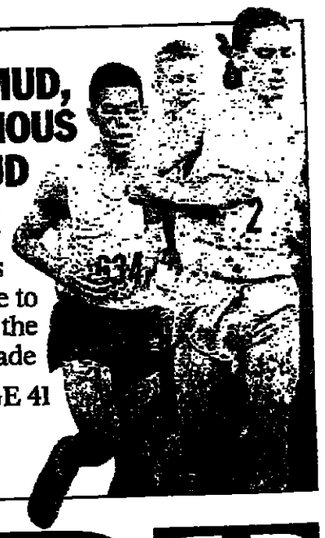
DOUBLE DEALING
Victory of convenience for Hakkinen and McLaren in Australia
PAGE 29



GROUNDS FOR LEAVING
Why has Trevor Francis resigned as Birmingham's manager?
PAGE 33



MUD, GLORIOUS MUD
Cross country hopefuls struggle to make the grade
PAGE 41



TIMES SPORT

17 PAGES

MONDAY MARCH 9 1998

TWO CLUBS WITH GLORIOUS PAST

Cup provides historical romance

BY OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THEY had been beginning to say that this was the FA Cup of none of the talents, that the big teams had gone and the competition had fallen victim to the changing priorities of the giants of the game such as Manchester United. But last night, as the line-up for the semi-finals began to take shape, suddenly it has become a Cup for the ages.

There in the last four, as the only teams who do not have to face a replay, are Newcastle United and Wolverhampton Wanderers, two famous old clubs who draw much of their tradition and their inspiration from their exploits four decades ago, when Billy Wright bestrode Molineux and Jackie Milburn was the hero of Tyneside.

Three times Newcastle won the Cup in the 1950s and Wolves lifted the trophy in 1949 and 1960. Since then both have been notorious underachievers. Newcastle reached the final in 1974 but were beaten 3-0 by Liverpool and have not been in a semi-final since. Wolves' record is even worse.

Now, though, the competition is coursing through them again, providing lifeblood for two sides whose seasons might otherwise have disintegrated. The Cup has long been used to bait these clubs, to show just how far they have fallen, but now it is hoisting them back among the elite again.

Newcastle won their way to a meeting with either Coventry City or Sheffield United last night with a hard-fought victory over Barnsley at St James' Park. Helped by a Herculean performance from Alan Shearer, they are now the 2-1 favourites to win the competition.

"Who have we got," Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, said when he emerged into the post-match press conference. "It doesn't matter anyway. I am just happy we are there. That is the most important thing."

Wolves, who shocked Leeds United 1-0 at Elland Road on Saturday, were drawn against either Arsenal or West Ham United, who drew 1-1 at Highbury yesterday afternoon. "If it was a choice between getting to the Cup Final or the play-off final to get into the Premiership, I would choose the play off final every day of the week," Mark McGhee, the Wolves manager, said. "But this compares to anything I have ever achieved in management and once you get to this stage everybody has a chance."

FA CUP

SEMI-FINALS
Coventry City or Sheffield United v Newcastle United
Wolverhampton Wanderers v Arsenal or West Ham United
Ties to be played on April 5
REPLAYS: Mar 17: Sheffield Utd v Coventry; West Ham v Arsenal

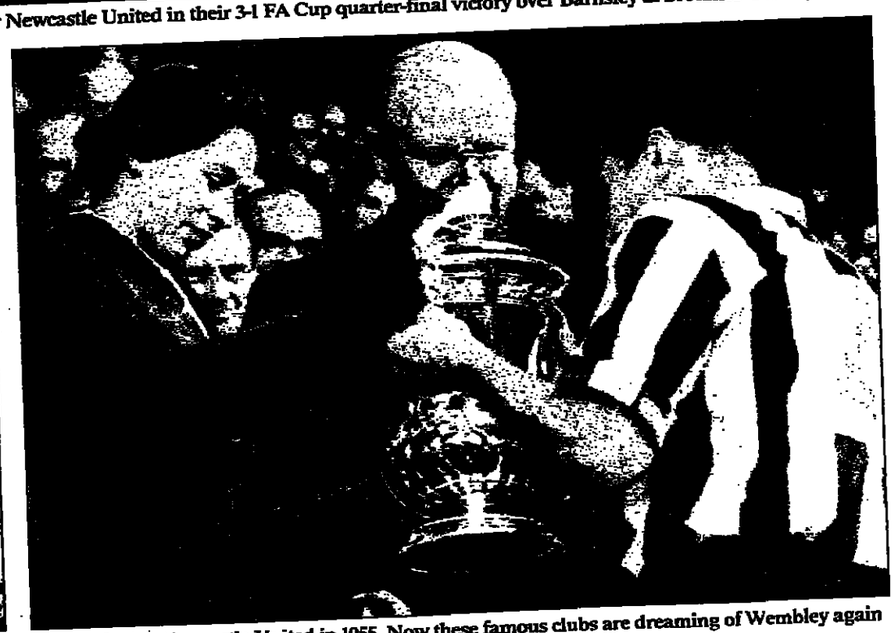
Arsenal held, page 30
Chelsea beaten, page 31

MARC ASPLAND



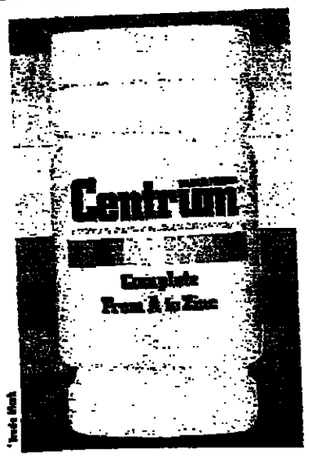
Temuri Ketsbaia, the Georgia midfield player, is exultant after scoring the opening goal for Newcastle United in their 3-1 FA Cup quarter-final victory over Barnsley at St James' Park





Golden days: Billy Wright, left, receives the Cup after Wolves' win in 1949 and Jimmy Scoular collects the trophy for Newcastle United in 1955. Now these famous clubs are dreaming of Wembley again

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CRICKET: ENGLAND KEPT IN THE FIELD FOR NINE HOURS AS HOLDER MAKES CASE FOR TEST RECALL

Sidhu sets pace as India clear arrears

A DASHING unbeaten 55 from the opening batsman, Navjot Sidhu, helped India to wipe out an unexpected deficit of 71 on the third day of the first Test match against Australia in Madras.

India were 100 for one in their second innings at the close, Mongia have fallen leg-before to Greg Blewett with the score at 43. Sidhu enjoyed himself at the expense of Shane Warne, hitting the leg spinner for five fours and a six during three overs that cost Warne 32 runs.

Earlier, Ian Healy's ninth-wicket partnership of 96 with Gavin Robertson, the off spinner, who is having a fine debut, enabled Australia to reach 328. Their stand, the highest for the ninth wicket in Tests between the countries, was ended when Healy, having reached 90, miscued when trying to sweep the left-arm spinner, Venkatapathy Raju. The previous best ninth-wicket partnership, worth 87, was between Ian Johnson and Bill Crawford at Madras on the 1956-57 tour.

Robertson's innings, which included seven fours, ended at 57 when he edged Javagal Srinath and was caught behind. Anil Kumble, who had taken three for 64 overnight, managed just one more wicket to finish with four for 103 on his return to international cricket after being dropped from India's one-day squad.

"It was the same old story; we just can't seem to get the tail out," Mohammad Azharuddin, the India captain, said.

INDIA: First Innings

†N R Mongia c Healy b Kasprowicz	58
N S Sidhu run out	62
R S Dravid c Robertson b Warne	52
S R Tendulkar c Taylor b Warne	4
*M Azharuddin c Reiffel b Warne	26
S C Ganguly lbw b Robertson	3
A Kumble c S R Waugh b Robertson	30
R K Chauhan c Healy b Robertson	3
J Srinath c Taylor b Warne	1
H Singh not out	0
S L V Raju b Robertson	0
Extras (b 8, lb 6, nb 4)	18
Total	257

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-126, 3-130, 4-186, 5-195, 6-247, 7-248, 8-253, 9-257.

BOWLING: Kasprowicz 21-8-44-1; Reiffel 15-4-27-0, Warne 35-11-85-4; Robertson 28.2-4-72-4, S R Waugh 1-0-4-0; M E Waugh 4-1-11-0

Second Innings

†N R Mongia lbw b Blewett	18
N S Sidhu not out	55
R Dravid not out	18
Extras (b 4, lb 2, nb 3)	9
Total (1 wkt)	100

FALL OF WICKET: 1-43.

BOWLING: Kasprowicz 6-2-13-0; Reiffel 3-1-3-0, Robertson 9-3-17-0; Warne 8-2-43-0, Blewett 5-2-10-1; M E Waugh 3-0-8-0.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

*M A Taylor c Mongia b Singh	12
M J Slater c Dravid b Kumble	11
M E Waugh c Ganguly b Raju	66
S R Waugh b Kumble	12
R T Ponting c Mongia b Raju	18
G S Blewett lbw b Chauhan	9
†I A Healy c Ganguly b Raju	90
P R Reiffel c Dravid b Kumble	15
S K Warne c Tendulkar b Kumble	17
G R Robertson c Mongia b Srinath	57
M S Kasprowicz not out	11
Extras (b 1, lb 6, nb 3)	10
Total	328

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-44, 3-57, 4-95, 5-119, 6-137, 7-173, 8-201, 9-297

BOWLING: Srinath 17.3-3-46-1, Singh 11-4-28-1, Kumble 45-10-103-4, Chauhan 25-3-90-1, Raju 32-8-54-3

Umpires: C Sharp (England) and S Venkatar. ghavan (India)



Caddick, the most successful of England's toiling bowlers, watches as Holder scampers another run. Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

Stewart and Butcher hit back

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

IF THERE was any consolation for England in a second fruitless, footsore day against Barbados, it came from the docility of the Kensington Oval pitch. The fifth Test will start on Thursday, two strips across the square, and even England's brittle batting ought to be capable of some rare self-indulgence.

By the time Barbados called off the torment yesterday afternoon, declaring their first innings at 472 for six, half the playing hours of this match were gone and so, barring unforeseeable drama, was its attraction as a contest.

England began their reply disdainfully. Stewart and Butcher taking 100 off 16 overs either side of tea. By then, though, the benign nature of both the surface and England's second-string seam bowling had been amply demonstrated.

Roland Holder had done everything possible to secure his inclusion in his home Test, improving his aggregate against England on this tour to 341 in two innings. Ricky Hoyte, probably the next West Indies wicketkeeper, had advertised his credentials with the bat. Meanwhile England, kept in the field beyond reasonable expectations, had seethed quietly or, in the case of Andy Caddick, histrionically.

Caddick is virtually certain to reclaim his Test place this week as England revert to using only a single spinner. He will not prosper, however, unless he bowls with more ingenuity than the one-dimensional method of pitching short with two men set deep on the leg side.

Three wickets did come Caddick's way, two of them by dint of pitching short, but the tactic was eventually as unedifying as his behaviour towards one of the umpires, Dalton Holder, howling appeals and stomping his dissent at every rebuff, and towards Hoyte, whose dismissal he inflated with a gratuitous gesture, to the raucous displeasure of the locals in a small crowd. This was the performance of a pantomime dame.

Modern touring itineraries increasingly marginalise those who do not make the Test XI and England's two principal casualties, Chris Silverwood and Ashley Cowan, are now suffering the consequences of inactivity. Neither bowled with any rhythm and Silverwood's dismissal of Sherwin Campbell was an isolated moment of menace.

Unless he bowls again today — and England will be in no rush to declare — Cowan is set to claim an unwelcome statistic. He has played only three games on tour and has not taken a single wicket. His combined figures now read nought for 177 from 67 overs and shrinking confidence is displayed in a run-up that is now short, stuttering, almost apologetic.

Cowan is one of at least seven players who will this week be told they must return home before the one-day series that ends this tour. Two more, John Crawley and Philip Tufnell, have probably already played their last cricket here, their exclusion from this match a ready indicator of the pecking order for the remaining Test matches.

Michael Atherton is also missing the match, as planned, and is practising every morning on a club ground. He is bemused by some media reaction to his habit of repairing a decline in form in the nets rather than in an inconsequential match and rightly offended by the suggestion that he is spending all his time with his girlfriend. She actually went home two days ago.

Atherton already knows his intended team for Thursday. The West Indies, although 2-1 ahead, are far likelier to tinker with their batting and Holder, 30, has surely made an unanswerable case to play his ninth Test after following up his 183, in Jamaica six weeks ago, with another massive hundred.

He batted for almost six hours here, his concentration impressive without suppressing his shotmaking. Neat of appearance, correct of technique, he hit 24 fours, many of them driven precisely, and played with such command that it was difficult to believe he has not been sustaining the West Indies middle-order for years.

His fifth-wicket stand with Hoyte expanded to 144 yesterday and England ended it in the only way which seemed likely, Holder being brilliantly run out by a direct hit from Silverwood at backward point.

Hoyte, a grandson of Everton Weekes and son of David Murray, has a Test match pedigree and his left-handed batting fully endorsed it, though as Stewart peerlessly flayed the Barbados bowling, later in the day the quality of this pitch was emphatically underlined.

BRIDGETOWN SCOREBOARD

BARBADOS: First Innings

*P A Wallace c Croft b Caddick	68
S L Campbell c Russell b Silverwood	21
A F G Griffith c Hussain b Caddick	21
R I C Holder run out	158
F L Reifer c Ramprakash b Croft	60
†R L Hoyte c Cowan b Caddick	64
T Rotlock not out	28
O D Gibson not out	24
Extras (lb 5, w 1, nb 22)	28
Total (6 wkts dec)	472

P Collins, M Belgrove and W E Reid did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-47, 2-120, 3-124, 4-257, 5-401, 6-427.

BOWLING: Caddick 30-3-119-3; Cowan 21-3-71-0; Silverwood 16-2-71-1; Croft 42-10-114-1; Hollioake 12-1-59-0; Ramprakash 9-3-33-0

ENGLAND: First Innings

A J Stewart not out	37
M A Butcher not out	21
Extras (lb 4, nb 7)	11
Total (no wkt)	69

*N Hussain, G P Thorpe, M R Ramprakash, A J Hollioake, †R C Russell, R D B Croft, A R Caddick, A P Cowan and C E W Silverwood to bat.

Umpires: M Jones and D Holder

SPORT IN BRIEF

Vettori swings game in New Zealand's favour

■ **CRICKET:** New Zealand's young left-arm spinner, Daniel Vettori, emerged from a slump in form to bowl his side to a two-run win over Zimbabwe in the fifth and final one-day international at Eden Park, Auckland, yesterday. New Zealand won the series 4-1.

Zimbabwe, chasing a target of 232, wanted eight from the last over, bowled by Chris Cairns, and the last man, Andy Whittall, found himself needing to hit a four from the final ball. But he could only lob a catch to Craig McMillan, who spilled it but restricted the batsmen to a single.

Vettori had knocked the heart out of the Zimbabwe middle order by bowling Andy Flower and Dirk Viljoen and having the Zimbabwe captain, Alistair Campbell, caught at long-on as he took three for 29 in ten overs. The pick of the New Zealand batsmen were Nathan Astle, who made 66, and Chris Harris, who picked up a faltering innings with an unbeaten 54.

Siemerink takes third title

■ **TENNIS:** Jan Siemerink, of Holland, claimed the third ATP singles title of his career when he defeated Thomas Johansson, of Sweden, 7-6, 6-2 in the final of the world indoor tournament in Rotterdam. Five top-ten players started the tournament, but both finalists were unseeded, Johansson ranked 34th in the world and Siemerink 48th.

□ Andre Agassi moved one step from a second successive title by defeating Tommy Haas 6-2, 6-1 in the semi-finals of the Franklin Templeton Classic in Scottsdale, Arizona. In the final, Agassi will face Jason Stoltenberg, of Australia, who beat Sjeng Schalken 6-3, 6-3.

More glory for Maier

■ **SKIING:** Hermann Maier, of Austria, took the men's World Cup super giant slalom title yesterday, after Hans Knauss, his fellow countryman, won the race in Kvitfjell, Norway. Maier, the double Olympic gold medal-winner, who has also taken the overall World Cup title, was unable to race because of a back problem but Knauss's victory in 1min 30.80sec handed him the title.

Vladimir Smirnov, of Kazakhstan, recorded his thirtieth World Cup cross-country victory in the 30km event in Lahti, Finland, yesterday, beating Thomas Alsgaard, of Norway, who increased his lead in the World Cup rankings.

Marlow emerge to win

■ **ROWING:** Marlow, coached by Mike Spracklen, the national coach, defeated Thames by 15 seconds in the 58th women's Head from Mortlake to Putney. Thames had been forced to reshuffle their crew two days before the race, having lost four members, all internationals, to injury, and put up a good fight. Clever steering by Suzy Ellis, the Thames cox, kept Marlow behind them until the Hammersmith Bridge, but Spracklen claimed later that her tactics had been "unsportsmanlike".

Kingston, who finished third, took the Senior One trophy by one second from Imperial College.

Francis eyes Calzaghe

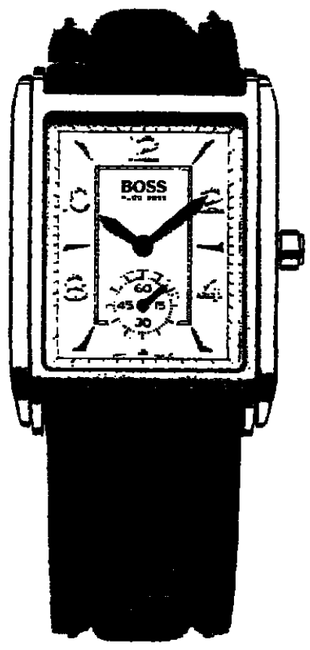
■ **BOXING:** Dean Francis successfully defended his British and WBO intercontinental titles — thereby retaining his European belt — by knocking out Mark Baker in Reading. Francis was ahead on points when Baker was floored for the first time in his career in the final round.

Baker, a light puncher, shook Francis in the middle rounds and exposed flaws which have existed since he suffered his only defeat, to Zaffarou Ballogou in 1995. Frank Warren, the promoter, indicated that Francis might take on Joe Calzaghe if the Welshman comes through his WBO defence against Juan Carlos Gimenez later this month.

Judges reject protest

■ **CYCLING:** Joe Bayfield won a controversial sprint finish to the 88-mile Colchester Rovers road race yesterday when an appeal by Brian Fleming, the winner last year, was rejected by the judges after half an hour's deliberation.

Fleming had alleged that in the closing yards he had been forced onto the roadside grass verge as he tried to sprint inside Bayfield. Bayfield's claim that he had stuck to his line was accepted by the judges. The result gave Bayfield his first victory of the season riding for his new squad, Team Invader.



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De Villiers saves best figures of his career for final Test

FROM IVO TENNANT
IN PORT ELIZABETH

PORT ELIZABETH (third day of five): South Africa, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 263 runs ahead of Pakistan

ON SATURDAY, Fanie de Villiers announced his retirement. Yesterday, he showed how much he would be missed. In this, his last Test match, he took six for 23, the best figures of his career, to help to bowl out Pakistan for 106 and so give South Africa an excellent opportunity of drawing the series.

De Villiers, 33, has lost something in pace but can still swing the ball sufficiently to trouble top-class batsmen. He could have made a considerable impression in England during the tour this summer. Instead, will be working for the United Cricket Board's (UCB) development programme, concentrating on schools level, as well as commentating on the game.

"New" South Africa, as it is termed, is a sensitive place for the UCB. Hansie Cronje, the captain, issued a statement last night saying that the players "had gone out of their way" to help under-privileged children and to sign autographs, refuting an allegation in a newspaper here that De Villiers had racially abused spectators during the second Test at Durban.

"Two players, Kallis and Donald, received consistent racial abuse from members of the public," Cronje said. "Knowing how South Africa is, we sent down De Villiers and Paddy Upton, the dietician, to speak to an individual to clear up the situation. He and his friend apologised to us for their actions."

De Villiers described the comments as "shocking and totally unfair". There is to be an inquiry into the players' behaviour, however.

On the field, De Villiers was not the only bowler to finish with six wickets. When Waqar Younis had him caught at second slip, it was the 250th wicket of his career in his 51st Test. Only Dennis Lillee has reached this target more quickly. Not to be totally outdone, Wasim Akram removed Boucher, who again played with extremely correctness while making a half-century off 99 balls, and Donald.

Remarkably, Pakistan then only just avoided following on, although they needed merely 94 runs to do so on what was still a decent, if somewhat slow pitch, although it had been freshened up, perhaps, by the rain that had caused the entire second day's play to be abandoned.

The fact that Boucher took six catches off Donald and De Villiers, equalling a record set by Denis Lindsay for South Africa against Australia at the Wanderer on the 1966-7 tour, would suggest extravagant movement. This was not the case. Donald, who took the first four wickets in 13 balls after switching ends, was greatly assisted by some poor defensive shots.

Pakistan did manage to remove Adam Bacher and Kirsten before the close, but with two days remaining and South Africa 263 ahead, only one result seems probable.

SCOREBOARD FROM PORT ELIZABETH

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings

A M Bacher lbw b Waqar	3
G Kirsten b Waqar	33
J H Kallis b Waqar	10
H D Ackerman b Waqar	11
A C Hudson c Moin b Mushtaq	42
*W J Cronje lbw b Waqar	85
S M Pollock c Azhar b Wasim	38
†M V Boucher c Rashid b Wasim	52
P S de Villiers c Azhar b Waqar	1
A A Donald lbw b Wasim	1
P R Adams not out	2
Extras (lb 3, nb 7)	10
Total	293

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-13, 3-35, 4-81, 5-122, 6-200, 7-257, 8-263, 9-263.

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 26-8-73-3, Waqar Younis 33-6-78-6, Azhar Mahmood 21-7-47-0, Shoaib Akhtar 13-4-30-0, Mushtaq Ahmed 16-1-65-1.

Second Innings

G Kirsten c Rashid b Azhar	44
A M Bacher c Rashid b Waqar	11
J H Kallis not out	32
H D Ackerman not out	6
Extras (b 1, lb 1, w 1, nb 4)	7
Total (2 wkts)	94

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-92.

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 7.3-2-23-0; Waqar Younis 8-3-21-1; Shoaib Akhtar 7-0-31-0; Azhar Mahmood 6-0-17-1; Aamir Sohail 1-1-0-0

PAKISTAN: First Innings

Saeed Anwar c Boucher b Donald	18
Aamir Sohail c Hudson b Donald	3
Ijaz Ahmed c Boucher b Donald	0
Inzamam-ul-Haq c Boucher b Donald	6
Moin Khan c Boucher b De Villiers	17
Azhar Mahmood c Adams b De Villiers	17
Wasim Akram not out	30
**Basit Ali lbw b De Villiers	0
Waqar Younis c Kirsten b De Villiers	7
Shoaib Akhtar c Boucher b De Villiers	0
Mushtaq Ahmed c Boucher b De Villiers	5
Extras (b 3)	3
Total	106

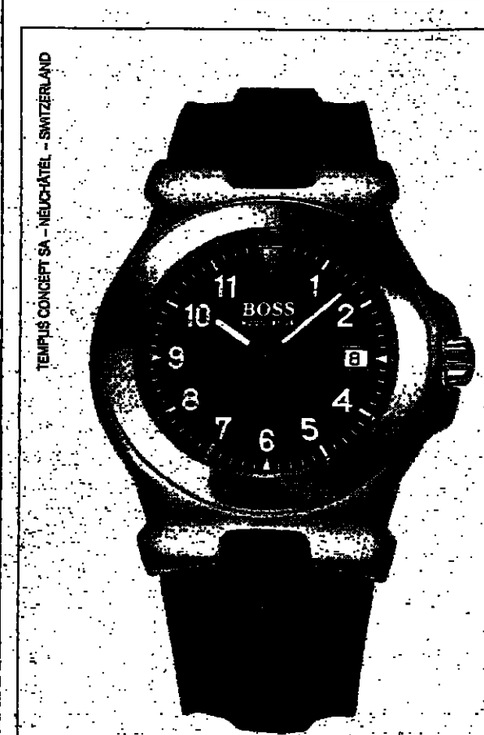
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-21, 3-26, 4-29, 5-61, 6-62, 7-62, 8-84, 9-84

BOWLING: Donald 13-3-47-4, Pollock 16-5-33-0, De Villiers 11.5-5-23-6.

Umpires: S R Dunne (New Zealand) and R E Koertzen (South Africa).



De Villiers, left, and Donald, partners in destruction



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MOTOR RACING: PIT-STOP FIASCO FAILS TO PREVENT ONE-TWO FOR McLAREN IN OPENING GRAND PRIX OF SEASON

Coulthard waves Hakkinen to victory

FROM KEVIN EASON IN MELBOURNE

TRUST is a rare thing in the intrigue-filled world of Formula One, but Mika Hakkinen will wake up this morning welcoming the day that David Coulthard joined the McLaren team.

Coulthard could have capitalised on Hakkinen's misfortune by staking an early claim for the world championship at the Australian Grand Prix here. He did not because a deal had been agreed and so, moments from the end of the race, he pulled over to allow the Finn the second victory of his career, settling for second place. It was a bizarre end to a bizarre race, one completely dominated by the McLaren team.

Michael Schumacher did not even get the chance truly to test his Ferrari against them, lasting only five laps before his engine blew up. The body language said it all as he stormed back to the pits after he had flung the steering wheel out of the car. But at least he was saved the ignominy of being lapped.

There was a poignant moment as Hakkinen swept onto the tail of Jacques Villeneuve and sat there waiting to pass. The world champion clearly did not want to give ground but he was left with no choice. Hakkinen shot past him like an Exocet as soon as the track was clear.

TV Action Replay 35

The winner of seven grands prix in 1997 had just been lapped. More than that, he had been blitzed. It was almost embarrassing to watch, particularly so for those who had changed the rules to try to bring about closer racing by slowing down the cars, demanding narrower bodywork and grooved tyres with less grip.

In fact, Hakkinen's fastest lap of the Albert Park circuit, of 1min 30.649sec, was only a fraction of a second slower than Heinz-Harald Frentzen's quickest last year.

The writing was very clearly on the pit wall during final qualifying, when the only question was which McLaren would be on pole. Hakkinen won that honour with a blistering performance but Coulthard, who enjoys the reputation of being Formula One's fastest starter, was alongside him.

What we did not know was that the drivers had agreed that whoever was first out of the first corner would be allowed to win unhindered and unharried by his team-mate. Ron Dennis, head of McLaren, was desperate to get the cars home and did not want his drivers waging a private war.

"It made no sense to push the cars to the limit," he said. "We had not done enough testing to know how reliable we were."



Hakkinen takes the chequered flag from Coulthard, who honoured their pre-race agreement. Below, Michael Schumacher stands by his smoking Ferrari, his race at an end on lap five

His drivers took it from there. Coulthard gambled on his fast start — and lost. He positioned his car at an angle to blast across the track, but a long hold on the starting lights, which left his car overheating and steam coming from the radiators, distracted him.

"I wasn't sure if I was on fire or overheating," he said. "It [the pact] seemed a really good idea at the time. If I had got to the first corner first, it might have been a different story."

That split second's distraction was all that Hakkinen needed to get in front and then scream into the distance. After Schumacher had departed, the field split into McLarens and the rest, with Villeneuve and Damon Hill, on his first outing for Jordan, no more than bit players.

It was a dreadful day for Jackie Stewart. Rubens Barrichello's transmission failed just as he started while Jan Magnussen piled into Ralf Schumacher's Jordan on lap one. Arrows, Tyrrell and Minardi failed to get a car home while Jean Alesi's miserable weekend in his Sauber finished on lap 41, when his engine packed up.

Of the rest, Giancarlo Fisichella ran impressively in the Benetton, which looked a good deal quicker than the Williams cars he was trapped behind when he spun off with a crumpled rear wing when a podium place had looked his for the taking.

Hakkinen was out on his own until, on lap 36, he tore into the pits only to discover there was no crew waiting for him, so he shot out again. He had misunderstood an unclear radio instruction for tyre changes while concentrating on overtaking Eddie Irvine's Ferrari.

That delay, of 11.2sec, saw Coulthard sweep into the lead, while Hakkinen found himself among slow company in the persons of Frentzen, Irvine and Fisichella.

His response was to charge past these impediments as if they were Sunday afternoon drivers while Dave Ryan, the McLaren team manager, was explaining the situation to Coulthard, who calmly switched off his radio to give himself a chance to think.

Two laps from the end, he pulled his car to the side of the track and waved Hakkinen through, an act of sportsmanship that will be long remembered in the McLaren garage. Ryan said simply: "David impressed a lot of people today."

Dennis was more effusive, describing Coulthard's decision as "an exceptional demonstration of sportsmanship". Whatever it was, it handed back victory to Hakkinen, who had been the class act all weekend, as Coulthard was first to admit.

Not that all this mattered to the other teams, who have more than enough to worry about before the next race, in Brazil at the end of the month. Before they start work, though, more bad news. Hakkinen said he was happy the McLarens proved reliable. "But then they weren't really racing flat out. They can go faster yet."



MELBOURNE DETAILS

RESULT: 1, M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren) 1hr 31min 45.996sec (av 120.660mph); 2, D Coulthard (GB, McLaren), at 0.702sec; 3, H-H Frentzen (Ger, Williams) at 1 lap; 4, E Irvine (GB, Ferrari); 5, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams); 6, J Herbert (GB, Sauber); 7, A Wurz (Austria, Benetton); 8, D Hill (GB, Jordan); 9, O Panis (Fr, Prost) all same lap. Did not finish: G Fisichella (It, Benetton) 43 laps completed; J Alesi (Fr, Sauber) 41; J Trulli (It, Prost) 26; R Rosset (Br, Tyrrell) 25; M Salo (Fin, Arrows) 23; E Tuero (Arg, Minardi) 22; S Nakano (Japan, Minardi) 8 laps; M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 5; P Diniz (Br, Arrows) 2; R Schumacher (Ger, Jordan) 1; J Magnussen (Den, Stewart) 1; T Takagi (Japan, Tyrrell) 1. Did not complete a lap: R Barrichello (Br, Stewart). Fastest lap: Hakkinen 1min 31.649sec (124.981mph).

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Drivers: 1, Hakkinen 10pts; 2, Coulthard 6; 3, Frentzen 4; 4, Irvine 3; 5, Villeneuve 2; 6, Herbert 1. Constructors: 1, McLaren 16pts; 2, Williams, 8; 3, Ferrari 3; 4, Sauber 1

QUALIFYING TIMES: 1, Hakkinen 1min 30.010sec; 2, Coulthard 1.30.053; 3, M Schumacher 1.30.767; 4, Villeneuve 1.30.919; 5, Herbert 1.31.384; 6, Frentzen 1.31.397; 7, Fisichella 1.31.739; 8, Irvine 1.31.767; 9, R Schumacher 1.32.392; 10, Hill 1.32.399; 11, Wurz 1.32.726; 12, Alesi 1.33.240; 13, Takagi 1.33.291; 14, Barrichello 1.33.383; 15, Trulli 1.33.739; 16, Panis 1.33.861; 17, Salo 1.33.927; 18, Tuero 1.34.646; 19, Magnussen 1.34.908; 20, Rosset 1.35.119; 21, Diniz 1.35.140; 22, Nakano 1.35.301.



Hakkinen celebrates

GRANDS PRIX TO COME

Mar 29: Brazilian, São Paulo. Apr 12: Argentine, Buenos Aires. Apr 26: San Marino, Imola. May 10: Spanish, Barcelona. May 24: Monaco, Monte Carlo. June 7: Canadian, Montreal. June 28: French, Magny-Cours. July 12: British, Silverstone. July 26: Austrian, Zeltweg. Aug 2: German, Hockenheim. Aug 16: Hungarian, Budapest. Aug 30: Belgian, Spa-Francorchamps. Sept 13: Italian, Monza. Sept 27: Luxembourg, Nürburgring. Nov 1: Japanese, Suzuka.

Learning importance of the team ethic

Kevin Eason on why Coulthard disappointed fans expecting a thrilling fight to the finish

There were two things that Formula One was desperate to avoid in the first race of the season: dominance by one team and any question mark over the validity of the result. They came one after the other yesterday.

The sport has spent the winter recovering from allegations that teams manipulated the result of the final race of last season and was looking forward to a season rich in close racing. In the event, McLaren's cars were so unassailable that the drivers could decide between themselves to stick to a pact that had already decided which of them should get to the chequered flag first.

What was important to Ron Dennis, head of McLaren, was that his two cars came home intact and with world championship points, something that might not have happened if the pair had fought wheel-to-wheel to the finish.

Except, of course, that that is what millions of television viewers might have thought they had tuned in for as they yawned into their morning coffee and watched the procession to the flag. Jolted by the prospect of the McLarens in a potential fight to the finish, they discovered that the order had been arranged so far in advance that they could have taken the dog for a walk.

McLaren is not to blame for producing a car so good. The way of Formula One is for one team to devise a technical advantage that forces everyone else to catch up. And they will, though it is a question of how quickly to prevent the season from becoming a McLaren benefit.

Formula One has still to find a way of being a race-after-race, year-after-year entertainment. Entertainment is defined by the unexpected and the thrill of battle: David stunning Goliath with cunning and skill. In Formula One, Goliath too often lands one punch to put David on his back. Since 1984, there have been only two names on the constructors' championship trophy — McLaren and Williams — and there is little chance of the balance of power being upset yet.

Formula One also needs to define its version of sportsmanship for the benefit of a confused public. The number of times a driver has been allowed to win by supposed rivals could almost warrant a separate chapter in the history of the sport. Mika Hakkinen has now won two grands prix and each time Coulthard has moved aside to let him through. People who placed bets on Coulthard will not have been pleased.

However, a good measure of the reason for controversy lies in public perceptions far removed from reality. Spectators believe that the driver overshadows the team; the teams believe that victory is what matters. Eddie Irvine knows that if he is leading a race from Michael Schumacher when the German needs world championship points, there will only be one team comment on his radio and it will not be congratulations.

As Coulthard has shown, though, team power can allow benevolence. Ayrton Senna pulled over to allow his McLaren team-mate, Gerhard Berger, to win the Japanese Grand Prix of 1991 when Senna had already secured the world championship. If Senna had been on a horse he would have faced a stewards' inquiry, but the Formula One world championship is a 16-race series, not a single contest; a nine-month marathon for teams, not a sprint for a single runner and rider, which is why the team will always come first. And the best team gets to call all the most important shots.

TENNIS

Graf starts difficult climb back to the top

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN INDIAN WELLS

THEY say that getting to the top is an awful lot easier than staying there, but no one has any words of wisdom to help those who have been there, fallen from the perch and are trying their damnedest to reclaim their rightful position. According to Steffi Graf, it is a lot harder than you think.

On Saturday afternoon, in the desert sunshine of California, she got her comeback campaign back on track with a 6-4, 6-0 win over Tamarine Tanasugarn, from Thailand. Tanasugarn is not exactly a household name anywhere outside of Bangkok, but she is a determined lass who has had her moments, reaching the fourth round of the Australian Open earlier this year. Against Graf, however, her moments were few and far between as the former No 1 began to shake off her first-night nerves and get into her stride.

Poor Tanasugarn. She tried so hard to keep the ball away from Graf's favoured shots. Although it seemed like a good idea at the time, constantly playing to Graf's backhand served only to hone the shot. And, given half a chance, Graf second-guessed the tactic by running around the shot to wallop away that famous forehand and leave Tanasugarn

Results 42

flapping her racket at thin air. The only chink in the armour was Graf's service and, having won the early break for a 3-1 lead, she then offered up her own service with a double fault on the second break point.

Breaking back immediately restored the balance and from there Graf never looked back. In a little over an hour she was through to the third round. Yet despite the speed of the victory, Graf is still taking her time to find her feet.

"It's like a learning experience," she said. "Just trying to get back in shape — it's a different feeling from before. I haven't played many matches and I lack a little confidence. It will take a couple of tournaments for me to get it all back.

"It makes it difficult if you have played well before, to such a high level. You know you should play well but you know you can't."

Still, it is all a great step forward from her first goal after the surgery to her left knee last year. Then, just being able to walk without pain was a bonus. Once that had been achieved — and the first match in Hanover last month was a reality and not a dream — the old competitive appetite was whetted once again.

"The first time I stood on the court it was such a great feeling," she said. "I thought, 'yeah, this is a challenge'."

As for winning again, that is not what motivates Graf at the moment and it certainly did not feature large in her thoughts as she worked to recover from the injury. "Oh God, not at all," she said with a look of horror. "What makes you think that?

"It's not about the winning, it's just a matter of being out there practising and playing tournaments. If it was just about winning I don't think I would have done it."

Then again, Graf at 28 is a wise old soul. Martina Hingis, 11 years her junior, is still enamoured with the whole business of whipping the opposition into submission. On Saturday, she eased through her first match, against Sarah Pitkowski, from France, 6-2, 6-1 and then said that Graf's return was "not anything special for me but it is good for women's tennis. But I do want to watch her play, so keep the questions short."



FA Cup: Brave Barnsley's dream ends abruptly while London rivals live to fight another day

Newcastle don Sunday best to go through

NEWCASTLE United, who have established themselves as the anti-heroes of the FA Cup this season, brought a cruel end to another fine romance at St James' Park yesterday when they destroyed Barnsley's Wembley dreams with a passionate 3-1 victory that moved them into the semi-finals.

After their graceless elimination of Stevenage Borough in the fourth round and four days in Dublin last week when they seemed to be doing their best to re-invent themselves as an amateur boxing club, Newcastle took their finger off the self-destruct button and produced a stirring performance.

There was no place either in the starting line-up or on the bench for Keith Gillespie, the player who has borne the brunt of the criticism for what occurred in Ireland, but a goal from his replacement, Temuri Ketsbaia, and one each from Gary Speed and David Batty, the latter in the dying seconds, was enough to end Barnsley's run after their win over Manchester United in the previous round.

That victory and a recent win over Wimbledon in the FA Carling Premiership meant that Barnsley entered this encounter on a tide of optimism. In the opening minutes of the game, they seemed full of confidence and verve and created two half-chances that spread alarm through the home supporters.

Ward created the first when his attempted cross spun off the legs of Albert on the right-hand side of the box. Ward

NEWCASTLE UNITED 3
BARNSLEY 1

By Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

was the first to react but his second attempt at a centre flew across the face of the Newcastle goal with no forward to apply the finishing touch. Three minutes later, Liddell failed to control a fine pass from Eaden when he was put clean through and another opportunity had gone.

Newcastle's first worthwhile attack led to their opening goal in the seventeenth minute. It began when Speed collected the ball in midfield and played a neat ball to Lee, who had his back to goal. Lee guided a finely-weighted first-time pass into the path of Ketsbaia, who may have strayed marginally offside but ran on to slide his shot past the advancing Watson.

Ten minutes later, Newcastle went further ahead. Lee played a first-time pass over the top of the flat-footed Barnsley defence and Andersson set off in pursuit of goal. He seemed to have knocked his second touch too close to Watson but the Barnsley goalkeeper decided not to commit himself and, when Andersson's shot rebounded off his legs, Speed drilled it back into the net. It was the Wales midfield player's first goal for the club since his £5 million move from Everton.

Newcastle continued to dominate at the beginning of the second half and it seemed that they would win in a canter. An angled long shot from Speed whistled just wide and then Shearer burst through but saw his shot cannon over the bar off the body of Watson.

Then, against the run of play, Barnsley forced their way back into the game. Bullock, who tormented Barton on the Newcastle right throughout the half, drifted in from the flank and played a low cross along the edge of the area to Liddell, who sidefooted it high into the net.

Now Barnsley surged forward, sensing the vulnerability of their hosts, and, midway through the half, they constructed their best move of the match. Redfearn exchanged passes with Bullock on the edge of the area and Bullock threaded a clever pass through to Ward. He turned and shot from ten yards out but Given flung himself to block it and Bullock's follow-up was charged down.

Two minutes after that, Shearer should have sealed the victory. Howey took the ball to the byline and set up a free header for the England captain but somehow Watson hurled himself across goal and clawed the ball away.

A minute after that, another run from Bullock set up a shooting chance for Redfearn but he sliced his shot wide and, when the ball went down the other end, Barnsley's dream was ended. Shearer twisted and turned his way past Moses who tripped him and was promptly sent off for his second bookable offence. The ten men of Barnsley fought on, brave to the end, but Batty added the *coup de grâce* in the dying seconds.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2) S Given — W Barton, S Howey, P Albert, S Pearce — T Ketsbaia, R Lee, D Batty, G Speed — A Andersson, A Shearer
BARNSLEY (3-5-2): D Watson — A de Zeeuw (sub: G Hristov, 55min), A Moses, C Morgan — N Eaden, C Marcelle (sub: M Bullock, 50), N Redfearn, D Sheridan, D Barnard — A Liddell, A Ward.
Referee: N Barry



Arms race: Potts, left, and Parlour fight a battle for midfield supremacy with grim determination. Photograph: Hugh Routledge



Moses, left, and Shearer get in a tangle at St James' Park

Bubbling West Ham still afloat

DOES anyone have the pedigree, the desire and the form to really want the FA Cup this season? The favourites this weekend have diminished themselves and at Highbury yesterday Arsenal failed to burst the bubble of West Ham United, despite the fact that assorted injuries and suspensions reduced their team to what Harry Redknapp, the manager, legitimately called "the bare bones".

He had allowed the medical staff to inject the calf of Rio Ferdinand and there was also a painkiller for Ian Pearce, while Steve Lomas, the captain, played despite not having trained during the week because of groin and calf injuries.

So what virtue is there in Arsenal? They finished in disgrace with Patrick Vieira, who has had 24 yellow cards and two red ones since joining the club, attempting to slap and to kick John Moncur, fortunately for him after the final whistle and with a referee more than willing to turn a blind eye. Arsène Wenger, as ever, was indulgent to his player, saying that his vision of the incident was impaired, but repeating that Vieira is a physical player, is only 21 and is picked upon.

How sad, for this, at least in the beginning, had promised to be a match as virile as the Premiership encounter between the teams at Upton Park last Monday had been sterile. Before the teams decide, on March 17, which of them plays Wolverhampton Wanderers in the semi-final, they must recreate that sharp early form.

Arsenal could have been two goals up inside six minutes: Bergkamp with a dipping shot had obliged Lama to arch his back and spectacularly palm the ball over his bar. Then, when the French goalkeeper misjudged a free kick from Dixon, Tony Adams, not ten yards out, sidefooted the ball high, wide and not very handsome.

West Ham, committed to only one genuine forward, Samassi Abou, then suddenly took the lead. Redknapp had been quite humorous about his plight. "I had to play Abou alone up front, and I didn't know if he could handle it. I had a good chat with him before the game . . . he didn't understand a word!" Abou came, via Cannes, from the Ivory Coast, and apparently Lama, who speaks at least four words of English, stood in as the interpreter between manager and forward.

When the goal came, it was from a corner by Lampard which, played diagonally across the ground, evaded the foot of Ferdinand and fell to Pearce. With Arsenal backing off, the big defender took a lusty kick at the ball and, to his evident surprise, scored.

Ten minutes later, it should have been 2-0. Lazaridis, too fleet of foot for the ageing Dixon, accelerated like a thoroughbred, delayed his cross until Berkovic was in a scoring position, and then turned in dismay when the Israeli stood on the ball almost comically.

It took four minutes for retribution and Pearce, the scorer, now wore another cloth. Keown was athletic and quick when Pearce dallied on the ball and, though there was contact between Pearce's intended tackle and the shin of Keown, the resulting dive was exaggerated to say the least. Nevertheless, Mike Reed and Cup ties usually produce dubious penalties, and Bergkamp was only too pleased to score emphatically, right-footed, from the spot.

Bergkamp showed more control in the blustery conditions and the scurrying pace of the game. Just before half-time, his back to goal, he elegantly laid the ball off for Petit who, full blooded, drove the ball. Lama, his country-man, cold not hold it off his chest, but recovered to deflect it for a corner.

The second half declined, and Keown was lectured for trampling on Abou. Why? If there was no intent, there was no need for stern words and, if it was not an accident, words were insufficient.

The volume, however, was being pumped up. Arsenal brought on Christopher Wreh, who, twice within a minute, with a left-foot shot and a header, ought to have tested Lama.

So, it petered out. West Ham had proved valiant, Arsenal merely unable to resemble a team that their manager still claims are interested in both the championship and the FA Cup. "West Ham waited for us in their half, it was defence against attack," Wenger complained. Others were merely complaining about his defence of Vieira, who was calmed, in French of course, by Abou.

ARSENAL 1
WEST HAM UNITED 1

By Rob Hughes

ARSENAL (4-4-2): A Manninger — L Dixon, A Adams, M Keown, N Winterburn — R Parlour, P Vieira, E Petit, M Overmars — D Bergkamp, N Anelka (sub: C Wreh, 68min)
WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-1-1): B Lama — S Potts, R Ferdinand, I Pearce — A Impey, F Lampard, S Lomas, J Moncur, S Lazaridis — I Berkovic (sub: L Hodges, 77) — S Abou.
Referee: M Reed.

Segers leaps into the mainstream

THE cars were leaving Elland Road and, across the street, the windows of a fish and chip shop were steaming up. A Leeds United supporter finished his battered cod, looking sullen at the memories of the match he had just watched. "What can you write about that?" he asked, almost rhetorically. "Just put nice things about the fish," the woman behind the counter said.

If the last eight minutes of this FA Cup quarter-final had gone the same way as the first 82, she might have got her wish. If the drudgery had gone on, if the litany of misplaced passes and the dearth of action had not relaxed its grip, she might even have got a full-blooded restaurant review, a paean to United Fisheries.

Instead, something wonderful happened on a squally Saturday in Yorkshire. Leeds and Wolverhampton Wanderers squeezed so much drama out of a tie that had seemed beyond redemption that it will live in the memory as one of the most pulsating, see-sawing finishes in the competition this season.

The fact that this was a giant-killing, a triumph for Nationwide League over FA

LEEDS UNITED 0
WOLVERHAMPTON W 1

By Oliver Holt

Carling Premiership, went almost unnoticed in a great rush of incidents that left one man exulting in a bitter-sweet homecoming and another blinking in the bright light of his emergence from a shadowy nightmare.

It raised more questions about the quality of the Premiership outside its highest echelons and suggested that perhaps the gap between the divisions is not as great as some might think. It left George Graham, the Leeds manager, contemplating a summer spending spree. Above all, this, ultimately, was a match full of human drama.

First, as the game begged to be put out of its misery, there was the sight of Don Goodman, the Wolves striker born in Leeds more than 31 years ago, fastening on to the sweetest, most perceptive of through balls from Carl Robinson. It was a pass that put to shame the creative dross that had gone before; the first instance of anyone having the confidence to slow play down.

As Martyn, the England goalkeeper, threw himself at his feet, Goodman chipped his shot delicately over him and wheeled away in front of the visiting supporters as the ball bounced over the line. "That was the stuff dreams are made of," Goodman said later.

Then, six minutes later, Hasselbaink burst into the Wolves area and was cut down by a rash challenge from the substitute, Keane. Wolves protested wildly, but the penalty stood and Hasselbaink himself struck it firmly, and truly, towards the corner of the Wolves net.

That was the cue for the second act of the drama. Hans Segers, the goalkeeper, flung himself to his left and pushed the ball round the post. His team-mates mobbed him and, for a few seconds, he stood and savoured the feeling of being a hero again.

For almost 18 months, he had become a non-person as he fought to clear his name, his career and his reputation destroyed by allegations that he had been involved in the match-fixing scandal that also implicated John Fashanu and Bruce Grobbelaar. In that split second in the Elland Road dusk, Segers leapt back to being a goalkeeper again.

"You would not believe how difficult it has been for me these past months," he said. "It was a terrible, terrible time. Then, suddenly, this week it all seems to be turning right again. Last Wednesday, I made my debut for Wolves, then I had my wedding anniversary, and now there is this. It is nice that perhaps there will be some good headlines for a change."

Graham, who may have regretted leaving Hopkin, Kelly, Bowyer and Wetherall on the bench and was lucky not to lose Hasselbaink after the striker head-butted Curle in the aftermath of the penalty miss, was left pinning faint hopes on Leeds mounting a late charge for a Uefa Cup place to salvage their season.

Mark McGhee, the Wolves manager, was happy he had given the owner, Sir Jack Hayward, something to rejoice about. "He came in the dressing-room afterwards," McGhee said. "Apparently, he has used up three sets of batteries in his pacemaker."

After all that, the fish doesn't really get a look in.

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N Martyn — M Hasan, R Molenaar, L Radebe, I Harte — C Halle, A Haaland, B Ribeiro (sub: G Kelly, 61min), H Kewell — J F Hasselbank, R Wallace
WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (3-4-3): H Segers — A Williams, K Curle, D Richards — K Muscat, C Robinson, S Osborn, L Naylor — S Bull (sub: R Keane, 79), D Froodman, D Goodman
Referee: P Durkin.



Goodman: dream return

Thompson unfazed by glare of the spotlight

STEVE THOMPSON has a reputation for being imperturbable and it barely ruffled him when, on Tuesday, he was told he was acting manager of Sheffield United, in the wake of the sudden departure of Nigel Spackman, and had to prepare the team for the FA Cup quarter-final against Coventry City four days hence.

Whether it was Thompson's inspirational words or deeds, or whether it was more a cussed, knee-jerk reaction from the players, it worked. United, from the Nationwide League first division, earned a deserved draw against Coventry City, from the FA Carling Premiership, and will meet again in a replay at Bramall Lane next week.

By then, Thompson, the former Lincoln City and Southend United manager, may have returned to his coaching position. He may even have left the club if the new managerial incumbent decides he wants his own staff. Success is often fleeting in football and Thompson may have had his 90 minutes of fame.

Still, Thompson, who survived the Braford City fire and was in a plane when the pilot decided to abort take-off at the last moment, enjoyed himself. "When you've been in a fire like that and also been in a plane that overshoots the runway, nothing really worries you," he said. "It was like a normal working week for me.

"I suppose I'll get some of the plaudits but it was more due to the players giving everything they had. We tried to get the ball down to play it, we didn't just lump it upfield, and whoever gets the job will inherit a team with ability, professionalism and a lot of self-belief."

COVENTRY CITY 1
SHEFFIELD UNITED 1

By Russell Kempson

Thompson, indeed, took the immediate plaudits yet the United supporters clearly retain a great warmth for their former manager. As they drifted joyously out of the ground, their choruses of "Spackman's coming home" leant credibility to the possibility of his swift return, especially as Mike McDonald, the chairman, has since resigned, too.

United could have been disorganised, disenchanted and bereft of spirit. They had also surrendered their unbeaten 21-match home record to Ipswich Town, only hours after Spackman's exit and were missing Saunders and Nilsen because of injury and Rush, Derry and Cullen, who were Cup-tied.

Yet, for large portions of a scrappy yet mildly entertaining tie, the underdog frequently outfought and outmanoeuvred his supposedly pedigree chum. United snapped at Coventry's heels throughout and even the setback of Dublin's 33rd-minute penalty, after Marker had brought down Gavin Strachan, failed to dampen their enthusiasm.

Coventry are never as effective when Dublin plays in central defence and a minute into first-half stoppage time, Dublin's defensive limitations were perhaps exposed when he surprisingly lost a block tackle to the more slightly built Marcelo. The Brazilian weaved onwards before clipping his shot, via the near post, past Ogrizovic.

United could have lost were it not for Kelly's supreme agility in keeping out headers from Whelan, Boateng and Breen. Huckerby also struck an upright. Yet they could have won in the last minute, when Katchiouro charged down Ogrizovic's attempted clearance only to delay too long over guiding in the rebound. "If that had gone in, it would have been the fairytale ending," Thompson sighed.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — R Nilsson, D Dublin, G Breen, D Burrows — P Telfer, Gavin Strachan (sub: T E Soltvedt, 77min), G Boateng, N Whelan — V Moldovan (sub: M Hall, 78), D Huckerby.
SHEFFIELD UNITED (4-4-2): A Kelly — C Short (sub: M Beard, 74), D Holdsworth, L Sandford, W Quinn — V Borbokis, N Marker, R Ford, G Stuart — G Taylor, Marcelo (sub: P Katchouro, 81)
Referee: S Dunn.



Dublin: less effective

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FA Carling Premiership: Villa keep Chelsea waiting for first league victory under Vialli

Joachim settles frantic struggle

ANDRE CAMARA



Bosnich, the Villa goalkeeper, climbs above Flo, of Chelsea, and Ehiogu, his own defender, to deal with a threatening moment

CHELSEA 0
ASTON VILLA 1

By Michael Henderson

WITH the money that these clubs have spent trying to assemble a decent team, a cash-strapped hospital or theatre could keep going for years. In their distracted mood yesterday the players of Chelsea and Aston Villa struggled to sustain this match for an hour and a half. It was a dreadful game, occasionally close to incoherence and at all times much too busy for its own good.

The FA Carling Premiership likes to talk itself up as the best league in Europe, but once again the question asked itself: where's the beef? Not for the first time the pitch appeared to be too small for all the people on it. The pace was frenetic, giving the impression, as so often in English football, of "activity". But the quality of passing was poor, lamentable in Chelsea's case, and Villa won by virtue of making fewer mistakes.

A goal five minutes after half-time by Joachim gave John Gregory his second successive league win since he took over from Brian Little. Joachim, fed by Hendrie, made room just inside the area to shoot right-footed into the bottom corner of the Chelsea goal. He would probably not have been playing had Collymore been fit, but the dilettante striker picked up an injury during Villa's midweek visit to Madrid: perhaps he dropped his wallet on his foot.

Vialli, the other novice manager, still does not know what a league victory tastes like. Chelsea have now lost four Premiership games in a row and have not scored a goal in that miserable run. In all, they have now lost 11 matches, far too many for a club that hopes to play in the Champions' League next season. What a revealing little fact that is.

It was a poor afternoon all round for Vialli, who was booked nine minutes from time after scuffling with Hendrie. He was unable by his own considerable efforts to rouse a side that badly missed the suspended Mark Hughes and for whom Zola, a second-half substitute, was surprisingly ineffective after he appeared.

Zola spurned a glorious opportunity to level the scores in the 88th minute. Running free into the area when Flo supplied a crossfield pass, he shot wastefully wide from an excellent position. An equaliser would have flattered Chelsea. Their defending was a disgrace as Yorke and Joachim led Duberry and Sinclair a merry dance.

Villa should have scored in the third minute. Grayson skipped past the flimsiest of challenges by Myers and pulled back a cross from the byline to the far post where Yorke, stooping to head the ball into the corner, managed to put it past the post instead.

Chelsea, without pulling rank, made more than a few of their own opportunities in that opening half. First Vialli, released by Flo's backheel, hit his shot narrowly wide from 15 yards. Then Vialli crossed from the left and the ball flew six inches beyond the head of Nicholls. Towards the end of the half, Flo, the hero of Seville, headed Sinclair's cross goalwards but Bosnich gathered the ball comfortably.

For much of that period, though, Chelsea huffed and puffed to no discernible purpose. The choicest moment came after 22 minutes when Duberry shot fully 20 yards over the bar from long range. It was an extraordinary sight and made one wonder what footballers do for the rest of the week. Surely even defenders can strike a ball more effectively than that.

Joachim, who came close three minutes before half-time with a header that De Goey turned brilliantly round the post, was more successful when Hendrie slipped him that invitation in the fiftieth minute. Gregory, who cut an animated figure all afternoon, reacted to the goal as though he had scored it himself, raising both arms and charging down the touchline.

For the time being the Villa manager must take his pleasures wherever he can find them. Yesterday, Chelsea's negligence contributed more than his own team's excellence to this particular Sunday delight. Neutrals are entitled to take a different view.

CHELSEA (4-3-3): E De Goey — F Sinclair, M Duberry, F Leboeuf, A Myers (sub: L Charvet, 67min) — J Morris, R Di Matteo (sub: G Zola, 60), E Newton — M Nicholls, G Vialli, T A Flo.
ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, G Southgate, S Staunton — F Grayson, I Taylor, M Draper, L Hendrie, A Wright — D Yorke, J Joachim
Referee: S Lodge.

Goal of European integration leads to domestic strife

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 2
MANCHESTER UNITED 0

By Keith Pike

THE satisfied grin that greeted a job well done in Monaco had gone, to be replaced by the merest hint of a scowl. But the explosion never came, the sour taste of defeat — their heaviest in the league this season — instantly spat out and forgotten. If anyone needed a reminder of Alex Ferguson's *raison d'être*, and that of Manchester United, they got it in two dismissive sentences on Saturday.

His players were still showering, still soothing clearly drained bodies and minds, when it was put to Ferguson that, with his team now beaten six times in the FA Carling Premiership, what had appeared to be a gentle stroll to the finishing line was once again a sprint; that United's obsession with the most glittering of prizes was in danger of inflicting untold damage on their hopes of domestic hegemony.

"We are not thinking like that," Ferguson said, matter-of-factly. "We have got a chance to get to the semi-final of the European Cup, and we have got to take that." So, there you have it. The European Cup was all, is all, and hang the consequences. It is a calculating approach that may yet establish Ferguson beyond question as one of the greatest managers of this or any other era. But there are other calculations, too, and they will not have escaped him.

The fact is that six defeats is as many as United have suffered in any of their four championship-winning seasons since the inception of the Premiership. Nor will it have been overlooked by Ferguson — or by Arsène Wenger, for that matter — that, should they win at Old Trafford next Saturday morning, Arsenal could establish themselves, mathematically at least, as the new favourites.

Both United and Arsenal have midweek engagements and, provided that United do not garner more points away to West Ham United that the Londoners manage away to Wimbledon, Arsenal will travel north knowing that victory over the champions will leave them eight points behind with three games in hand. Leeds United, Liverpool and Newcastle United have also still to visit Old Trafford. The bookmaker who has already paid out on United winning the title may be feeling just the first tremors of alarm.

He would have had he been at Hillsborough, where United gave probably their least distinguished performance of the season. A heavy, uneven surface did not help them — "That's two bad pitches in a row," Ferguson said with ill-disguised frustration — but what really did for them was a Wednesday side that played with real gusto. United, heavy-limbed and slow of thought by comparison, looked like they had just stepped off the plane from Monte Carlo.

Their tormentor-in-chief was Paolo Di Canio. The Italian's exuberance can occasionally boil over and land him in trouble with officials, but here he channelled all his efforts into unsettling a United defence sorely missing the commanding presence of Schmeichel and Pallister. Di Canio ran relentlessly at the soft centre in front of Van der Gouw, where the muscular Booth was also proving a handful, and once they had taken the lead, Wednesday's supremacy was rarely threatened.

That opening goal, in the 26th minute, typified United's shortcomings. Beckham, who had a thoroughly miserable afternoon, conceded a corner, and when Van der Gouw chose not to attack Carbone's cross, Atherton outjumped his marker to head home.

The failure of Peter Jones, a late replacement as referee, to spot May's clear professional foul on Di Canio could not disrupt Wednesday's rhythm. Van der Gouw parried expertly from Di Canio early in the second half and, in one remorseless attack, both Newsome and Stefanovic hit the woodwork, as Scholes had already done. There were only three minutes left when Di Canio's overhead kick was rightly ruled to have crossed the line before May cleared, but United were by then a well-beaten team.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-3-1-2): K Pressman — E Barrett, J Newsome, D Walker, A Hinchcliffe — P Atherton, D Stefanovic, M Pembridge (sub: G Whitehingham, 48min) — B Carbone — A Booth, P Di Canio (sub: S Oakes, 87).
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): R van der Gouw — G Neville, D May, R Johnsen (sub: P Scholes, 46), H Berg — D Beckham, P Neville (sub: J Curtis, 39), N Butt, O G Solskjaer — E Sheringham — A Cole (sub: B McClair, 75).
Referee: P Jones.

Everton pay for their lack of forward thinking

SOUTHAMPTON 2
EVERTON 1

By Brian Glanville

WHEN, after 39 minutes, Ken Monkou, the Southampton defender, was sent off for bringing down Mickael Madar in the penalty box, who would have gambled on the home side? But Don Hutchison, the Everton midfield player, saw his spot kick turned over the bar by Paul Jones, and Southampton went on to win against an Everton team which also finished with ten men.

The difference was that after Slaven Bilic was sent off — for the third time this season — in the 69th minute, for fouling Ostenstad, Matthew Le Tissier put Southampton's penalty away. "All credit to them," David Jones, the Southampton manager, said of his team. "I asked them if they'd have a go, and they said 'yes'."

Jones was aggrieved, though, about the prelude to the first penalty, when Madar chased Farrelly's long ball through a defence which looked uncertain throughout over offsides. Jones, a former Everton player, said: "If the linesman had been on his toes it was five yards offside."

Oddly, Everton faded after missing their penalty, having dominated beforehand. Howard Kendall, their manager, used Nicky Barmby up front and made him captain in the absence of Duncan Ferguson. Quick and clever though he is, Barmby is essentially an attacking midfield player, and it was surprising that Kendall did not bring on that natural striker, Danny Cadamarteri, until 15 minutes from time.

Kendall said: "I think you look at a football match and it turns on opportunities and chances. We probably had enough chances to win four games." The first, and one of the best, came after 19 minutes. Receiving a pass from Madar on the right, O'Kane sent a long cross to the far post where Hutchison saw his strong header acrobatically turned over by Jones.

Well might David Jones, whom his goalkeeper followed to The Dell from Stockport County, claim: "He is becoming one of the best goalkeepers in the Premiership." Kendall agreed: "Their goalkeeper was excellent."

When Barmby's well-judged lob put Madar clear, Jones saved the consequent chip, too. Early in the second half, he turned Farrelly's high shot round a post, and late in the game he came dashing out to claw the ball away from the advancing Cadamarteri before springing to his feet to save the ensuing shot by Madar. Only in injury time was he beaten by a header by Carl Tiler from a corner, itself conceded when Jones saved Tiler's first header from a free kick by Hutchison.

After 87 minutes, Southampton rubbed salt into Everton's wounds. Palmer nodded down a careless clearance and then crossed from the right for Ostenstad, alone on the far post, to head in. "If you play badly and you lose," a disenchanted Kendall said, "you hold your hand up. It's very frustrating if you play like you play today and you only score one goal, and that in injury time."

SOUTHAMPTON (3-5-2): P Jones — K Monkou, C Lundekvam, F Benali — J Dodd, C Palmer, M Le Tissier (sub: R Dryden, 77min), M Oakley, J Beresford — D Hirst, E Ostenstad.
EVERTON (3-5-2): T Myhre — D Watson, S Bilic, C Tiler — J O'Kane, G Farrelly (sub: D Cadamarteri, 75), D Hutchison, J Oster, M Ball — M Madar, N Barmby.
Referee: D Elleray

Ince takes responsibility to sustain title fantasy

LIVERPOOL 2
BOLTON WANDERERS 1

By David Maddock

LIVERPOOL have just three matches remaining at Anfield this season. It is not the most exciting of statistics, true, but then it was not the most exciting of games. And it does, at least, put into perspective any lingering hopes — or rather, fantasies — they may have of winning the championship.

Their supporters applauded them from the pitch as if they were conquering heroes, but this was a mundane performance against a Bolton Wanderers team who will be relegated from the FA Carling Premiership.

Liverpool are clinging, just, to second place in the table, but they will be lucky to hold on to it — and luckier still to hold on to some of their better players when they drift off for their summer break. Steve McManaman and Jamie Redknapp have still to sign new contracts and both are more interested in medals than money, given their financial position.

The question they — and others in the Anfield dressing-room — will surely be asking is, can they win honours with Liverpool over the next few seasons? The answer, if we take this game as a typical example of their form this season, is no.

Liverpool played adequately enough and certainly won more easily than the scoreline suggests, but only after a desperately poor first half. Ince proved in the second half that he is a leader and he virtually dragged Liverpool to victory. But beyond him, McManaman and Redknapp, there are not enough players prepared to take responsibility. That is the real reason why they will not win the title.

At least there is a foundation to build on, if only the better players can be persuaded to stay. Michael Owen had a very quiet game, but his goal to win the match confirmed what just about everyone in the game is now aware of — here is a young man who can turn matches.

It was a beautiful goal, to conclude Liverpool's best passage of play. A delicious move, that started with Matteo and twice flowed through Ince, allowed Owen to do what he does best, a spin off his marker midway into the Bolton half, a dash towards goal and then, from within the penalty area, a crisp, clinical finish. From that moment, the 64th minute, Liverpool cruised to victory, and could easily have added to their winning margin had Leonhardsen and Kennedy, the substitute, shown just a little more accuracy. But up until the interval, Bolton had looked more likely winners.

They took the lead in the seventh minute when Blake, toiling manfully with little support, knocked down a ball from Bergsson on the edge of the penalty area and Alan Thompson, with a vicious swipe of his left foot, directed it into the back of the net on the half-volley at incredible speed.

Soon after, Thompson found similar venom with another left-foot shot, but this time the ball crashed against the crossbar with the floundering Friedel well beaten. Holdsworth and Frandsen both had chances before the interval to leave Liverpool with no way back.

As it was, Ince powered forward in typically inspirational fashion to equalise in the 58th minute with a header from a corner by Kennedy that exposed Bolton's defensive weakness. Colin Todd's team have quality in certain areas, particularly in the form of Blake, but they still appear to possess the naivety that saw them relegated from the Premiership two seasons ago, and a similar fate surely awaits them.



Owen: clinical finish

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): B Friedel — R Jones, D Matteo, S Harkness, S I Ljungberg — S McManaman, J Redknapp, P Ince, O Leonhardsen — M Owen, K Riedle (sub: M Kennedy, 34min).
BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K Branagan — N Cox, A Todd, C Fairclough, G Bergsson — P Frandsen, J Sheridan, A Thompson, A Gunnlaugsson — N Blake, D Holdsworth.
Referee: K Burge.

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FOOTBALL: NORWEGIAN SCORES LATE OWN GOAL AFTER HOSPITAL DASH

Pedersen gifts Celtic win

Dundee United 2
Celtic 3

BY KEVIN MCCARRA

FEW men can score the last-minute own goal that inflicts defeat on their team in a Tennents Scottish Cup quarter-final and still count it among the lesser experiences of their day, but such is Erik Pedersen's peculiar distinction. The Dundee United midfield player had called Tommy McLean, his manager, yesterday morning to say that he might be unavailable to face Celtic because his pregnant wife, Beate, was ill.

At midday, the Norwegian was phoning again to rule himself out because his wife was being taken to hospital. Shortly afterwards, however, she gave birth, two weeks early, to a boy, and Pedersen was free to travel to Tannadice. He may wish that he had spent his afternoon pottering around the maternity ward.

With the score at 2-2, Burley, the Celtic midfield player, took a quick-witted free kick in the middle of his own half. United, bewildered by the abruptness with which danger had developed, lacked cover as Brattbakk spurted through the middle and rolled a pass to Larsson on the right. The Swede sent in a low, threatening cross that bumped against Pedersen and rolled into the net.

United are trapped in a cycle of suffering where Scottish Cup matches against Celtic are concerned. Two years ago, they were 1-0 ahead in a quarter-final before conceding two goals in the closing moments. Fate has been vindictive for United, but it was not the only influence at work at Tannadice.

Some of Celtic's defensive resilience waned as they conceded two goals for the first time since November, but other forms of durability remained. United moved 2-1 in front, after 52 minutes, when Boyd swiped ineffectually at a header from Winters, leaving Olofsson to drill a low drive into the net. Struggle and attrition were expected to ensue, but Celtic possessed a self-confidence that allowed them to equalise just four minutes later.

The build-up from Mahe and Brattbakk put Donnelly in possession and he strode in from the left before playing a reverse pass into Wieghorst's path. The Dane angled his finish beyond Dijkstra, the goalkeeper. The match was speckled with far too many fouls for either team to be majestic, but it always had the engrossing habit of erupting into incident.

Given Pedersen's unusual prelude to the contest, United can be forgiven the muddle they found themselves in early on. Perhaps the daze of fatherhood dulled Pedersen's reactions when Celtic went ahead in the eighth minute. He lagged behind, leaving Brattbakk onside as he took Larsson's pass.

The forward was swift in rounding Dijkstra and calm enough to be slow and careful about pushing the ball home. It was Brattbakk's eighth goal in the past five matches and he has scored in each of the three rounds of the Scottish Cup this year. It created a false impression that the unruffled flow of his team's recent form was about to continue.

United showed they were capable of creating turbulence in the eighteenth minute when Winters lifted a pass over Rieper, Celtic's mountainous centre back. Olofsson, returning to the side a mere 13 days after a knee operation, flighted a delicate volley onto the crossbar and the ball rebounded off the back of Gould's head and into the net.

The goalkeeper must be credited with an own goal, but the remainder of the side could not share his sense of injustice. Having already seen Malpas force a header against the bar in the tenth minute, United disregarded any allegations of luck. Their celebrations were followed by the curious sight of McLean being sent to the stands by Kenny Clark, the referee. He had been haranguing the linesman over Brattbakk's goal.

Celtic join Heart of Midlothian and Falkirk in the semi-final draw that will be made tomorrow. The last quarter-final, between Rangers and Dundee, takes place tonight. Burley and Wieghorst, of Celtic, are now suspended for the semi-final, having received their second bookings of the competition yesterday.

DUNDEE UNITED (3-5-2): S Dijkstra — M Perry, M Malcolm, S Pressley (sub: M Skoldmark, 46min) — A McLaren (sub: E Ormoyinni, 72), D Bowman, L Zetterlund, J Dolan (sub: C Easton, 82), E Pedersen — R Winters, K Olofsson.
CELTIC (3-5-2): J Gould — T Boyd, M Rieper, A Stubbs — S Donnelly, C Burley, P Lambert, M Wieghorst, S Mahe — H Larsson, H Brattbakk.
Referee: K Clark.

GILL ALLEN



England try to build an attack during their World Cup qualifying match against Germany at the New Den yesterday

England fall some way short of mark

David Powell sees an impressive display of efficiency from the women of Germany

ENGLAND versus Germany in the football World Cup. No sudden-death penalty shoot-out, no controversial goalline incident. Just typical German efficiency and discipline. Against these, the England women's team foundered at the New Den, home of Millwall FC, yesterday.

Nobody can say it was unexpected. Germany, the European champions, had won all nine previous encounters between the countries and the tenth leaves England facing an uphill struggle to qualify for the World Cup finals in the United States next year.

A 31st-minute goal from Sandra Smisek, with a shot that might have been saved by Rachel Brown, the 17-year-old England goalkeeper, put Germany six points clear in a group that also includes the World Cup holders, Norway. Brown appeared to try to push Smisek's shot over the bar. However, she was too far out and succeeded only in slowing the ball's progress into the net.

England, with one victory and two defeats from three matches, can console themselves at not having to play Germany again. However, in their last three matches they will, in all probability, have to beat Holland away and Norway at least once to finish runners-up and go into the play-offs. The top two qualify from the four-team group.

Brown was named unexpectedly in place of Pauline Cope, the Millwall goalkeeper and England No 1. That left England with four teenagers in their line-up, five after Melanie Garside, 16, had come on for the second half. "I am very pleased with the performance," Ted Copeland, the England manager, said. "It was encouraging for us, especially with all the young players we had in."

Something is evidently wrong when England take on a match of this importance, against opposition of the calibre of Germany, with, to use Copeland's words, "inexperienced internationals". It is the price being paid for England's failure to run a progressive structure through age-group teams.

"Countries like Germany have under-18, under-16 and under-14 teams," Copeland added. "We are going down that path but it is going to take a number of years to develop international teams coming through the system. We started under-18s last year and hopefully next year we will start under-16s.

"The Germans have come through a system which has been established for 25 years. They have international programmes and identification programmes at under-14, under-16 and under-18." Yesterday they included only two teenagers, both 19.

Though Copeland expressed satisfaction, England were, in truth, some distance short of their visitors. Only twice was Claudia von Lanken, the Germany goalkeeper, forced into saves, tipping over 25-yard drives from both and Murphy, whereas Brown was kept busy for much of the game. She put the goal behind her to pull off three fine saves, once diving at the feet of Prinz to prevent a seemingly certain goal.

ENGLAND (3-5-2): R Brown — F White, M Marley (sub: M Garside, 46min), S Britton — K Burley, D Murphy, G Coultard, H Powell (sub: C Udey, 82), S Smith — K Smith, K Davis (sub: B Easton, 25).
GERMANY (3-5-2): C von Lanken — K Siegemann, S Jones, S Minnert — D Fischen, A Hingst (sub: I Gringa, 88), M Voss, M Hoffmann, S Gottschlich (sub: R Lingor, 46) — S Smisek (sub: M Meyer, 80), B Prinz.
Referee: E Odlund (Sweden).

Dismissals ease Rushden home

Rushden & Diamonds 4
Cheltenham Town 1

BY WALTER GAMMIE

THE dismissals of Keith Knight and Mark Freeman turned a potentially cracking contest between the sides that started in second and fourth place in the Vauxhall Conference into a one-sided romp for the former, Rushden & Diamonds, at Nene Park on Saturday.

The sendings-off were particularly unsatisfactory as they followed offences that were not so clear-cut as to warrant the effect they had on the match. Knight was first to go, in the 32nd minute, when he apparently won the ball cleanly to thwart Caporie after a sweeping Rushden break.

Brian Talbot, the Rushden head coach, said: "My player said he definitely held his shirt in the box and pulled him down." Cramman scored the penalty to put his side ahead.

Freeman, who missed two months this season after having his leg severely gashed in a clash with Foster at Whaddon Road, was sent off after 56 minutes for two fouls in three minutes on the same player.

Collins neatly tucked in Rushden's second after Underwood's shot fell to him and, after Victory pulled a goal back, Foster walked the ball into the net for the third. Three minutes from time, Book, advancing from his area to take the ball from Foster, failed to clear and watched as Cooper sent it into an empty net from 45 yards.

Halifax had their lead over Rushden cut to nine points after they were held 1-1 by Dover Athletic. "We've got three very hard away games next — against Woking, Halifax and Hednesford — and we've got to win all three," Talbot said.

RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS (4-4-2): M Smith — T Wooding, D Brackstone, C Whyte (sub: J Rodwell, 88min), K Grassman — J Capone, M Cooper, G Butterworth (sub: J Hamsher, 82), P Underwood — D Collins, A Foster.
CHELTENHAM TOWN (4-4-2): S Book — M Duff, M Freeman, M Thorpe, J Victory — K Knight, R Bloomer, L Howells, C Walker (sub: R Milton, 68) — D Watkins (sub: J Eaton, 76), N Grayson.
Referee: M Cooper.

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Nationwide League: Power struggle may be behind decision that left Birmingham in turmoil

Club seeks to make Francis think again

BY RICHARD HOBSON

TREVOR FRANCIS completed his routine post-match *press conference* and began to chat informally with journalists while he finished a glass of lager. Nothing in his manner *suggested that within* an hour he would march to the opposite side of the St Andrew's ground to resign as the *Birmingham City manager.*

He spoke of the way he had rebuilt the side since taking charge in May 1996, about *how the "surgery has finished"* after a turnover of nearly 50 players in 22 months. Now, Francis believed, a team had been assembled to make a genuine push for the FA Carling Premiership, if not through the *play-offs this season* then as candidates for automatic promotion next year.

To relinquish the opportunity *to take his side that next step* forward highlights his subsequent anger — not solely at the drunken behaviour of corporate guests in verbally abusing his family. He was furious



Francis leaves St Andrew's after resigning as manager

that the club decided to use a lounge usually reserved for players, their families and guests after the game for *corporate entertainment* without consulting him. For this, the club received £2,000.

"These players are like diamonds, but the treatment they have received is cheap," Francis said. "Having somewhere to gather after matches with their friends and *families to* unwind is good for team spirit." Karren Brady, the managing director, said that a room had been made available to the players and wives on the opposite side of the ground. "They were thrilled," she said.

It is not difficult to detect a conflict here. Indeed, Steve Bruce, the captain and most obvious *managerial* successor, feels Francis may have used the situation to make a more significant point. "It might be a smokescreen. There is a difference between threatening to quit and actually doing it. At this point I think it would be unfair of me to speculate any further," Bruce said.

If Francis is indulging in a game of brinkmanship, designed to clip the wings of Brady, then he holds a strong hand. To a section of support he will always be the blue-eyed boy, the 16-year-old who scored four goals against Bolton Wanderers and became the finest player in the history of the club.

He emerged from a spell last year, when Birmingham won just once in 14 games with a boardroom guarantee that his job was safe until the *end* of next season. The side has since recovered and the 1-0 win against Queens Park Rangers took them to seventh place in the Nationwide League first division, a point away from the play-off zone.

In a lengthy interview with a local newspaper on Saturday, Francis, explaining the ground rules he outlines to new players, said: "If anyone has a problem they can come and see me, but I do not want the players to run and see Karren Brady without my permission."

Brady yesterday ordered a review of the amount of alcohol consumed in the area concerned. She promised that the two men who shouted at Francis's wife, Helen, and 18-year-old son, Matthew, after the game will be banned for life.

David Gold, the chairman, is trying to persuade Francis to return at a meeting scheduled for today. "There is a marvellous opportunity before us and it should not be ruined by yobs," Gold said. "I apologise to Trevor for this unfortunate event and I hope he can *find it in his heart to return.*"

The behaviour of the supporters concerned through the afternoon was little short of disgraceful. Seated in the old directors' box, the prime seats in the ground between the press box and the dug-outs, they directed a series of obscene gestures and chants towards Ray Harford, the QPR manager.

A steward intervened several times to threaten ejection and nearby season-ticket holders became annoyed when *some of the party arrived late* for the second half while others left their seats, blocking the view, to go to the toilet. *Eye-witnesses suggested* alcohol had been smuggled into the area, contrary to ground regulations.

Francis could not help but become aware of the group during play, but was more concerned initially that a supporter in the opposite stand had thrown a mobile telephone at a linesman during the second half. The incident will be reported to the Football Association and could result in a fine. For the moment, it is the least of Birmingham's worries.

Quinn takes lead role in little and large show

Sunderland 4
Stockport County 1

BY PAT GIBSON

SIX months ago, Niall Quinn was wondering whether he would ever play football again. On Saturday night, he was talking happily about the prospect of returning to the FA Carling Premiership with Sunderland and continuing to play for Ireland for as long as his legs will carry him.

Quinn, 31, had just scored only the second hat-trick of his 15-year career to lift Sunderland into second place in the Nationwide League second division and banish all the fears that tormented him when he was undergoing his third knee operation in the space of 18 months.

The Sunderland supporters, who had doubted the wisdom of the manager, Peter Reid, in paying £1.5 million for the former Arsenal and Manchester City striker, gave him a rapturous reception when he limped from the Stadium of Light with a twisted ankle 20 minutes from time. "The lads reckon that the only reason I went off was to get the reception I got," the loquacious Quinn said, "but to play in front of that crowd and to be treated like that is very special. If, as a professional footballer, you can't get your kicks out of that, it's not worth playing."

There are two main reasons for Quinn's new lease of life. One is the skill of the surgeons, the other the partnership he has formed with Kevin Phillips, the diminutive striker who scored his 24th goal of the season to set the seal on Sunderland's victory.

They make an odd couple. Quinn, 6ft 4in and almost 16st, Phillips, 5ft 7in and 11st wet through, but the big man reckons that the difference in size is a factor. "I know my limitations and he knows his and when we both stick to those it usually means that we slot together very well," Quinn said.

"Kevin gets a lot of plaudits for scoring goals but he has learnt so much in the past six months about bringing other people into the game, and he was brilliant today. He is the main goalscorer and I should probably just be supporting

CARL RUTHERFORD



Quinn outjumps the Stockport defence to be first to the ball during Sunderland's emphatic victory at the Stadium of Light

him, but he was the provider today and laid on two of my goals."

Quinn need not be so modest. For all his ability in the air, he has more skill on the ground than some people imagine and he demonstrated it in the 42nd minute when he scored the first goal, just when Sunderland were beginning to get frustrated.

They had stormed all over Stockport from the start, but Johnston had skimmed the bar with one shot and Phillips had rolled another against a post when Quinn chested down a cross from Johnston with defenders all around him, controlled the ball with one deft touch and poked it cleverly past Nixon with the outside of his right boot.

Phillips, who was signed in the summer from Watford, made the next two goals, unselfishly setting up Quinn for another right-foot strike when he could not get in a shot himself and then crossing to the far post for Quinn to head in from an acute angle.

In between times, Stockport pulled one back when Angell scored after one of Flynn's long throw-ins — their biggest threat all afternoon — but they knew they had been outclassed when Phillips slotted in his goal from Clark's pass.

By then, Quinn was in the dressing-room reflecting on a conversation he had with Andy Townsend, his former Ireland colleague, earlier in the week. Townsend, three years his senior, had decided to retire from international football.

"I wondered if I should be doing that myself but by the time I had had a cup of tea there was no way," Quinn said. "When I look at other great players Ireland have had, like John Aldridge, Kevin Moran and Paul McGrath, there was no sign of them ever wanting to quit until the manager stopped them and I have a funny feeling I'll be like that. I just love it so much."

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): L Perez — D Holloway, J Craddock, D Williams, M Gray — N Summerbee, L Clark, K Bell, A Johnston — N Quinn (sub: D Dichio, 72min), K Phillips.
STOCKPORT COUNTY (3-5-2): E Nixon — J Gannon, M Flynn, M McIntosh — S Connelly, T Dinning (sub: W Phillips, 46), C Byrne, P Cook, D Searle — S Grant (sub: A Mutch, 58), B Angell.
Referee: E Wolstenholme.

Ipswich talisman helps revive dreams of glory

Ipswich Town 3
Charlton Athletic 1

BY BILL EDGAR

OLDER Ipswich Town supporters remember David Johnson as an England striker *who helped the Suffolk club to* four consecutive top-six finishes in the old first division during his four seasons there. *Now a new goalscoring* David Johnson, unrelated, is helping younger Portman Road devotees to dream of a return to *those glory days under* Bobby Robson.

When the present Ipswich manager, George Burley, a *former colleague of Johnson* Sr., found his side in the Nationwide League first division relegation zone in November, he turned to a familiar name to stop the rot. Some 21 league games and only two defeats later, the club record £1.1 *million deal that brought* the short, pacy Johnson Jr, 21, to Ipswich from Bury can be seen as the turning point of the *season.*

Johnson, who made one appearance for Manchester United and wants to play for his native Jamaica, side-footed his sixteenth goal for Ipswich *on Saturday to complete a fine* second-half comeback which moved his team up to fifth place, one behind Charlton *Athletic. But in a game* between sides who prefer brain to brawn it was Kieron Dyer and Bobby Petta, both an inch *taller than Johnson at 5ft 7in,* who inspired Ipswich.

Dyer displayed the smooth midfield skills that have made *him an England Under-21* regular while Petta, the Dutch winger, helped to create the 53rd-minute equaliser for *Micky Stockwell and im*pressed Burley greatly. "Bobby was excellent in the second half," Burley said. "He's still *getting used to the pace of* English football, but there is no doubting his ability."

Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, will be relieved to have Dyer and Johnson in his own squad tomorrow when he manages a Nationwide League *under-21 side* against a team from Italy's *Serie B at The Valley.* However, Curbishley was as unhappy with the referee, Phil Richards, as he was with the result. At *half-time* he asked Richards not to issue any more yellow cards as he felt the total of four first-half *bookings was unjustly high.* "He lost the plot," was the manager's verdict, but Richards eventually cautioned *seven players, six from Charlton.*

If the referee gave Curbishley any advice on coaching in return at half-*time, it was also of no benefit* as Ipswich took their goal tally to 18 from the past four home games. Jason Cundy atoned *for his error which led to* Clive Mendonca giving Charlton a first-half lead by heading Ipswich in front with 15 minutes *remaining.*

IPSWICH TOWN (4-4-2): R Wright — M Taricco, A Mowbray, J Cundy, J Clapham — M Stockwell, K Dyer, M Holland, R Petta — A Mathie (sub: J Scowcroft, 80min), D Johnson
CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): S Ilic — A Barness (sub: K Lisbie, 78), R Rufus, S Balmer, M Bowen — S Newton, M Kinsella, K Jones, J Robinson — C Mendonca, M Bright.
Referee: P Richards.

Ball conducts case for McMahon's defence

Swindon Town 0
Portsmouth 1

BY PETER ROBINSON

STEVE McMAHON was defending himself, his players, his chairman; everybody, it *seemed, who knew him.* Questions were being fired from left and right and Alan Ball, who had been standing quietly at *the back of the scrum, could* take no more. Pushing his way to the front, he stood next to his opposite number and put *the case for his defence.*

"I thought Steve's team were great today," he said. "They gave everything and I felt for *them. They should have had a* penalty, but when you are in a rut these decisions go against you. They were excellent in the *second half and we were* hanging on." After a quick lecture about the nature of luck in football, Ball called a *halt and led McMahon to* safety.

It was a sensitive performance that completed a near-*perfect day for the Portsmouth* manager. His players had won for the fifth time in six matches and, though relegation still looms, the shadow is not as large, Portsmouth having risen from bottom to the heady heights of eighteenth place in the Nationwide League first division. Given *the general reaction to Ball's* appointment, which amounted to a few titters and an "oh dear, never mind", it is a *remarkable transformation.*

A transformation it is, though, from the era of Terry Venables and Terry Fenwick, *when Portsmouth* were playing fantasy football, dreaming of a team of internationals fit to challenge the best. The *reality was that Portsmouth* were sinking and needed somebody like Ball, who knows a thing about relega*tion struggles — please, no* giggling.

Playing in a gale on an unpredictable pitch, the match *was awful, but Portsmouth* defended sensibly enough, even though they should have conceded a penalty when Mat*thew Robinson tripped Mark* Robinson in the 63rd minute. Yet they escaped and, with a bit of quick thinking — Hillier taking a quick free kick to Pethick, who crossed for Durnin to strike the winner — they made the most of it.

Swindon were crestfallen. Their day was a horror. With *ticket prices increased by £2.50* for the rest of the season to ease debts, many supporters stayed away, a boycott of sorts. *There have been calls for the* chairman's head and that of McMahon, the manager.

"Somebody said it was a kick in the teeth, but it was lower than that," McMahon began. "I never thought for a moment that they would score a goal. The referee should have given us a penalty, it wasn't even debatable." And so it went on and on until Ball, *quite rightly, said enough is* enough.

SWINDON TOWN (4-4-2): F Talia — Mark Robinson, B Borrows, C Taylor, T Gooden — P Culkin, L Collins, S Leitch, M Walters — S Crowe, S Finney.
PORTSMOUTH (3-5-2): A Flahavan — A Tomson, A Awford, A Whitbread — R Pethick, D Hillier, A McLoughlin, M Vachos. Matthew Robinson — S Claridge, J Aloisi (sub: J Durnin, 73min)
Referee: K Leach.

Stevens ruins Flynn's day

Wrexham 2
Carlisle United 2

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

ONE year ago, Wrexham were involved in an FA Cup sixth-round tie away to Chesterfield after a Cup run that had included the elimination of an FA Carling Premiership side, West Ham United — the type of thing for which the Welsh club has become known over the years. This season, however, a relatively early FA Cup exit *has meant* that the firepower they often direct against higher-placed clubs has been channelled into the search for league points.

How effectively can be judged by their league position — seventh in the Nationwide League second division after Saturday — and by the award to Brian Flynn of the divisional *manager-of-the-*month title for February after four wins in five matches. "We had not a bad Cup run," Flynn said, "but went out in the third round to Wimbledon after a replay; we said after that that we had nothing else to focus on apart from the league. Our form has been consistent since, say, December."

The secret? "Teamwork," according to one spectator. "The best passing team in the league." Hard work, Flynn *said, but conditions on Satur*day rendered a passing game well-nigh impossible, while Carlisle United, whose own *run of three* successive victories had taken them clear of the relegation places, matched Wrexham's workrate.

It would be a kindness to say that two in-form teams cancelled each other out in a poor first half. Wright's *scrambled 37th-minute opener* for Carlisle, prodded in at the second attempt from a horizontal position, was more in *keeping with the general level* than Ward's superbly-struck



Knighton: important point

equaliser, a dipping volley *from outside the penalty area.*

The elements hit the Racecourse Ground with everything they had after the break, but the play improved and Wrexham's pressure was rewarded when Karl Connolly, whose entrance as a substitute was warmly welcomed, headed in off the post from Carey's free kick. However, Stevens, who volleyed in from close *range to level the score, could* have won the game but for Marriott's double save.

"Wrexham will be disappointed; we are absolutely delighted," Michael Knighton, the Carlisle chairman and director of football, said. "We *said if we could get a point* here, it could be the single point that turns our season. We showed tremendous character out *there in appalling* conditions against a very, very good side. It wouldn't surprise me if they go up."

Flynn blamed lack of concentration for the late lapse. "The feeling in the dressing-room was as if we had lost the game," he said. "But we're still there."

WREXHAM (4-4-2): A Marriott — M McGregor, D Rider, B Carey, P Hardy — C *Stirrat (sub: K Connolly, 65min),* N Wilson, P Ward, G Owen — D Sorrk, N Roberts.
CARLISLE UNITED (3-4-3): A Caig — W Barr, W Varty, S Pounewatchy — R Lloyd, G Anthony, R Prokas, A Hopper — N Wright (sub: A Cousins, 62), A Smart (sub: S Dobie, 78), I Stevens.
Referee: S Baines.

Torquay collapse in spectacular fashion

Torquay United 0
Cambridge United 3

BY MEL WEBB

TALK about after the Lord Mayor's Show. Long before the final whistle sounded at Plainmoor on Saturday afternoon, His Worshipful had not only been and gone but the man who swept up the town hall steps had done his bit and clocked off, too. For the previous eight games, all of which they had won to create a club record, Torquay United had been terrific. In this one they were incomparably dreadful.

To underline the assertion, consider Torquay's opponents. *Not even Cambridge* United's most fervent supporters would claim that their team are a great deal of use away from home. They had not won a Nationwide League third division away game for six months before Saturday, a run of exquisite awfulness that encompassed 18 games. Further, they had emerged victorious only twice since December 1996.

The one small chink of hope to which Cambridge and their followers could cling was that the away triumph that started that protracted sequence was acquired nowhere else but at Torquay.

That, however, was when Torquay were occupying more familiar territory in the nether regions of the third division table. No more — their recent run of success has left them in second place. Torquay, thus, would be no pushovers. Except that they were; they competed with their lowly opponents in no department of the game, at any time. To suggest that they fell apart would be to assume that they were together in the first place.

Cambridge led 1-0 at half-time after a splendid solo goal *by Kyd, who drove the ball* past Veysey after skimmying past three static Torquay defenders. The second came ten minutes after the interval when the powerful Benjamin fired in a low shot. The third, scored by Wanless from 25 yards with 11 minutes left, was something of an irrelevance.

TORQUAY UNITED (5-3-2): K Veysey — D Gurney, J Gittens, A Watson, J Robinson, P Gibbo (sub: S McCall, 53min) — C Leadbitter (sub: W Thomas, 71), G Clayton, K Hill — R Jack, A Bedeau.
CAMBRIDGE UNITED (4-3-3): S Barrett — B Chenery, M Joseph, A Duncan, J Campbell — I Ashbee, P Wanless, M Beall — M Kyd, L Charles, T Benjamin.
Referee: A Butler.

Double record stays intact

Swansea City 1
Cardiff City 1

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

HIGH noon at the Vetch Field. A helicopter hovers overhead, a pack of alsatians whines eerily in the disused warehouse nearby and 750 visiting supporters are bussed into town under guard — all signs of the heavy and intentionally high-profile police presence in Swansea yesterday. When Cardiff come a-visiting, for the first time in five years since their ban was lifted, little is left to chance.

Ultimately, it was much ado about nothing in South Wales. The eye in the sky twirled off back to base, the dogs stayed champing at the bit and the *honours* were shared in the Nationwide League third division. Again, as history has decreed since the teams first met in 1929, neither side was able to complete the league double over their deadliest of rivals.

Opportunity had beckoned for Swansea, after their 1-0 victory at Ninian Park in November, but they were unable to seize the moment. The sticky pitch and weight of expectation proved too much to overcome. The early kick-off, designed to curb drunkenness, hardly helped, either. Alan Cork, the Swansea manager, said: "I suppose I have to be pleased with a point. We got out of jail a bit."

Frank Burrows, the Cardiff and former Swansea manager, was coaching with West Ham United when he got the call last month to return for *his second spell at the club.* On the evidence, he has an unenviable job as he tries to recreate the style that took Cardiff to the play-off semi-finals last season.

"I've inherited a team that is low on self-confidence and self-belief," he said. "I am trying to turn it around, I am setting the players targets that I hope they will reach and we are starting to get there."



Penney: penalty possibility

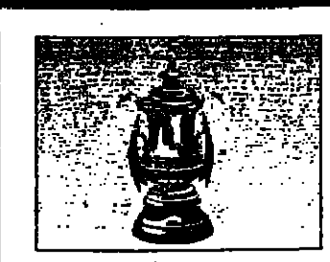
It was a dire derby, lacking in any sustained passion on or off the terraces. How four fans could become so animated to get themselves arrested defies belief. At least leaving early prevented them from further suffering.

Neither goalkeeper had a shot to save in the first half, which was notable only for the efforts of Penney, the Cardiff and former Swansea captain. He could have conceded a penalty, when bringing down Bird, or earned one, when brought down by Hartfield, but neither tackle impressed John Brandwood, the referee.

The second half was better, marginally, with Cardiff going in front in his 58th minute, when Fowler dispatched a low drive, and Swansea equalising six minutes from time, when Coates glanced in a header from O'Gorman's cross. If hardly exhilarated, everybody went home a little happy.

SWANSEA CITY (4-4-2): R Freestone — C Edwards, K Walker, M Bound, D Lacey (sub: L Jenkins, 62min) — J Price, N Cusack, C Hartfield (sub: K O'Leary, 78), J Coates — R Appleby (sub: D O'Gorman, 39), A Bird.
CARDIFF CITY (4-4-2): J Hallworth — S Young, J Eckhardt, L Jemman, C Beech — W O'Sullivan, D Penney, J Fowler, D Hill — S White (sub: C Roberts, 72), A Saville
Referee: J Brandwood

FA CUP SIXTH ROUND



COVENTRY (1) 1 **SHEFFIELD UTD** (1) 1
Dublin 32 (pen) — Marcelo 45
23,084

Coventry City: S Ognizovic, D Burrows, G Breen, D Huckerby, N Whelan, D Dublin, P Telfer, G Boateng, R Nilsson, V Moldovan (sub: M Hall, 78min), Gavin Strachan (sub: T E Soltvedt, 76min).
Booked: Boateng
Sheffield United: A Kelly, C Short (sub: M Beard 46min), W Quinn, V Borbokis, L Sandford, D Holdsworth, R Ford, N Marker, G Taylor, Marcelo (sub: P Katchouro, 81min), G Stuart.
Booked: Marker, Borbokis.
Referee: S Dunn.

LEEDS (0) 0 **WOLVERHAMPTON** (0) 1
39,902 — Goodman 82

Leeds United: N Martyn, M Hiden, R Molenaar, L Radebe, I Harte, G Halle, A-I Haaland, B Ribeiro (sub: C Kelly, 61min), H Kewell, R Wallace, J F Hasselbaink.
Booked: Ribeiro
Wolverhampton Wanderers: H Segers, K Muscat, A Williams, K Curle, D Richards, L Naylor, C Robinson, S Osborn, D Goodman, S Bull (sub: R Keane, 78min), D Freedman.
Booked: Muscat.
Referee: P Durkin.

NEWCASTLE (2) 3 **BARNSLEY** (0) 1
Ketsbaia 16 — Liddell 57
Speed 27 — 36,695
Batty 90
Sent off: A Moses (Barnsley) 76

Newcastle United: S Given, W Barton, S Pearce, S Howey, P Albert, D Batty, R Lee, G Speed, T Ketsbaia, A Andersson, A Shearer
Booked: Howey, Barton, Pearce, Batty, Shearer.
Barnsley: D Watson, N Eaden, D Sheridan, D Barnard, A Moses, A de Zeeuw (sub: G Hristov, 55min), C Morgan, N Redfearn, C Marcelo (sub: M Bullock, 50min), A Liddell, A Ward.
Booked: Redfearn, Morgan, Moses, Barnard
Referee: N S Barry

Yesterday

ARSENAL (1) 1 **WEST HAM** (1) 1
Bergkamp 26 (pen) — Pearce 12
38,077

Arsenal: A Manninger, L Dixon, N Winterburn, P Vieira, A Adams, N Anelka, D Bergkamp, M Overmars, M Keown, R Parlour, E Petit
West Ham United: B Lama, S Potts, S Lomas, R Ferdinand, J Moncur, S Lazaridis, F Lampard, I Pearce, A Impey, S Abou, E Berkovic
Booked: Potts, Lomas, Lampard
Referee: M Reed

SEMI-FINAL DRAW

Coventry City or Sheffield United v Newcastle United
Wolverhampton Wanderers v Arsenal or West Ham United
☐ *Ties to be played Sunday April 5.*

REPLAY DATES

Coventry v Sheffield United (*March 17, 7.45*)
Arsenal v West Ham United (*March 17, 7.45*)

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

LIVERPOOL (0) 2 **BOLTON** (1) 1
Ince 58 — Thompson 7
Owen 65 — 44,532

Liverpool: B Friedel, R Jones, S McManaman, O Leonhardsen, J Redknapp, S Harkness, K Riedle (sub: M Kennedy, 34min), P Ince, M Owen, S I Bjornebye, D Matteo.
Booked: Redknapp.
Bolton Wanderers: K Branagan, N Cox, P Frandsen, C Fairclough, N Blake, A Thompson, G Bergsson, J Sheridan, A Todd, D Holdsworth, A Gunnlaugsson
Booked: Bergsson.
Referee: K Burge.

SHEFF WED (1) 2 **MAN UTD** (0) 0
Atherton 26 — 39,427
Di Canio 88

Sheffield Wednesday: K Pressman, P Atherton, M Pembridge (sub: G Whittingham, 49min), J Newsome, D Walker, B Carbone, A Booth, P Di Canio (sub: S Oakes, 89), D Stefanovic, A Hinchcliffe, E Barrett.
Booked: Barrett
Manchester United: R Van Der Gouw, G Neville, D May, R Johnsen (sub: P Scholes, 45min), D Beckham, N Butt, A Cole (sub: B McClair, 77), E Sheringham, P Neville (sub: J Curtis, 60), O Solskjaer, H Berg.
Booked: May
Referee: P Jones.

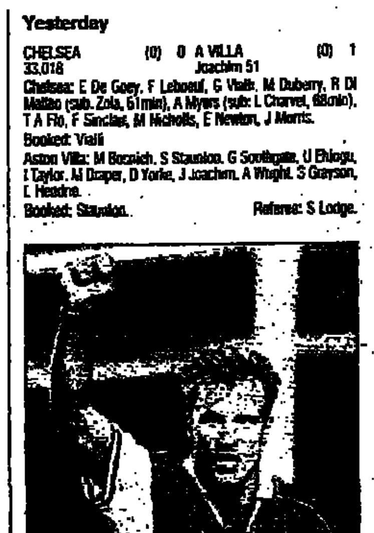
SOUTHAMPTON (0) 2 **EVERTON** (0) 1
Le Tissier 69 (pen) — Tiler 89
Ostenstad 86 — 15,102
Sent off: K Monkou (Southampton) 36, S Bilic (Everton) 68

Southampton: P Jones, J Dodd, F Benali, C Palmer, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, M Le Tissier (sub: R Dryden, 76min), M Oakley, D Hirst, E Ostenstad, J Beresford
Everton: T Myhre, J O'Kane, D Watson, S Bilic, C Tiler, M Ball, N Barmby, D Hutchison, G Farrelly (sub: D Cadamarteri, 74min), M Madar, J Oster.
Booked: Tiler, Hutchison, Madar.
Referee: D Elleray.

Yesterday

CHELSEA (0) 0 **A VILLA** (0) 1
33,018 — Joachim 51

Chelsea: E De Goey, F Leboeuf, G Vialli, M Duberry, R Di Matteo (sub: Zola, 61min), A Myers (sub: L Charvet, 68min), T A Flo, F Sinclair, M Nicholls, E Newton, J Morris.
Booked: Vialli
Aston Villa: M Bosnich, S Staunton, G Southgate, U Ehiogu, I Taylor, M Draper, D Yorke, J Joachim, A Wright, S Grayson, L Hendrie.
Booked: Staunton. Referee: S Lodge.



Bergkamp: his goal kept Arsenal in contention for the FA Cup

GOALSCORERS

	Lge	Cup	Euro	Total
A Cole (Man Utd)	12	5	5	22
J Hartson (West Ham)	12	8	0	20
C Sutton (Blackburn)	16	3	0	19
D Dublin (Coventry)	14	5	0	19
M Owen (Liverpool)	14	4	1	19
D Bergkamp (Arsenal)	12	5	1	18

Includes all competitions

OVERSEAS

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Bari 2 Empoli 0; Brescia 3 Lecce 2; Fiorentina 1 Piacenza 1; AC Milan 1 Sampdoria 0; Napoli 0 Bologna 0; Parma 1 Internazionale 0, Udinese 1 Juventus 1; Vicenza 1 Atalanta 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	24	15	7	2	50	20	52
Internazionale	24	14	5	5	41	21	47
*Lazio	23	13	6	4	40	17	45
Parma	24	12	8	4	39	23	44
Udinese	24	12	7	5	44	29	43
*AS Roma	23	11	8	4	43	27	41
Fiorentina	24	10	9	5	45	27	39
AC Milan	24	10	8	6	30	22	38
Sampdoria	24	9	7	8	39	40	34
Vicenza	24	8	5	11	26	44	29
Bologna	24	6	9	9	33	34	27
Brescia	24	7	5	12	32	38	26
Bari	24	7	5	12	22	34	26
Piacenza	24	4	12	8	18	28	24
Empoli	24	6	5	13	34	43	23
Atalanta	24	4	9	11	19	34	21
Lecce	24	3	4	17	18	55	13
Napoli	24	2	5	17	15	52	11

* *Does not include last night's match*

SPANISH LEAGUE: Barcelona 3 Real Madrid 0; Salamanca 2 Espanol 1; Real Sociedad 0 Zaragoza 1; Deportivo de La Coruna 2 Oviedo 1; Sporting de Gijón 0 Celta 1; Mallorca 1 Valladolid 1; Racing de Santander 1 Compostela 1
GERMAN LEAGUE: 1860 Munich 4 Borussia Dortmund 2; Arminia Bielefeld 3 MSV Duisburg 3; Hansa Rostock 1 Bayer Leverkusen 2; Cologne 2 Hertha Berlin 0; Karlsruhe SC 2 Borussia Mönchengladbach 5; Werder Bremen 1 Kaiserslautern 1; VfL Bochum 0 SV Hamburg 0.
FRENCH LEAGUE: Bastia 1 AJ Auxerre 2; Girondins Bordeaux 4 En Avant Guingamp 2; Monaco 0 RC Lens 1; Cannes 1 Strasbourg 0; Paris St Germain 1 Toulouse 1; Chateauroux 0 Montpellier 1; Rennes 2 Le Havre 2; Olympique Lyon 0 Nantes 0; Metz 3 Olympique Marseille 2.
DUTCH LEAGUE: Fortuna Sittard 4 MVV Maastricht 1; Heerenveen 0 NEC Nijmegen 3; Willem II Tilburg 1 Graafschap Doetinchem 1; Groningen 3 RKC Waalwijk 1; Utrecht 0 PSV Eindhoven 1. Postponed: Twente v Ajax Amsterdam.
BELGIAN LEAGUE: RWD Molenbeek 0 Harelbeke 1; Antwerp 1 Bevaren 0; Ghent 0 Germinal Ekeren 2; Lokeren 2 Anderlecht 1; Charleroi 1 Eendracht Aalst 1, Excelsior Mouscron 2 Lommel 1; Standard Liege 2 Sint-Truiden 0; Genk 3 Club Bruges 0; Lierse 3 Westerlo 1.
PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Academica 0 Porto 1; Chaves 1 Boavista 3; Vitoria Guimaraes 2 Belenenses 2; Campomaiorense 4 Leca 0; Vitoria Setubal 2 Estrela Amadora 1; Rio Ave 0 Varzim 0; Sporting Lisbon 1 Maritimo 1; Braga 0 Salgueiros 2.
DYNASTY CUP: East Asian football tournament (Tokyo): South Korea 1 Hong Kong 0; China 2 Japan 0.

CARLING F.A. PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Man Utd	29	11	2	1	35	6	7	3	5	22	15	59	+36
2 Liverpool	29	10	2	4	31	15	4	6	3	17	14	50	+19
3 Arsenal	26	10	2	2	29	9	3	7	2	16	17	48	+19
4 Blackburn	27	9	3	2	35	18	4	6	3	14	15	48	+16
5 Chelsea	28	8	2	3	22	10	6	1	8	30	21	45	+21
6 Derby	28	10	3	1	28	8	3	3	8	16	26	45	+10
7 Leeds	28	6	3	5	18	15	6	3	5	18	15	42	+6
8 Leicester	28	5	7	3	16	11	5	3	5	18	17	40	+6
9 West Ham	27	9	2	1	26	8	3	2	10	12	28	40	+2
10 Southmptn	29	9	1	5	25	17	3	3	8	11	21	40	-2
11 Coventry	28	6	7	1	21	14	4	2	8	14	21	39	0
12 Sheff Wed	29	8	4	4	27	22	2	3	8	16	32	37	-11
13 A Villa	29	6	3	5	19	19	4	3	8	12	20	36	-8
14 Newcastle	27	6	4	5	16	16	3	3	6	10	15	34	-5
15 Wimbledon	26	4	3	6	14	17	4	5	4	14	13	32	-2
16 Everton	29	5	3	5	18	18	2	6	8	15	24	30	-9
17 Tottenham	29	6	4	4	15	16	2	2	11	11	26	30	-16
18 Barnsley	27	5	3	5	16	23	2	1	11	8	40	25	-39
19 Bolton	28	3	8	2	11	13	1	4	10	13	32	24	-21
20 C Palace	27	0	4	9	7	26	5	4	5	14	15	23	-20

Nationwide Football League

FIRST DIVISION

BIRMINGHAM (1) 1 **QPR** (0) 0
Adebola 16 — 18,298

BURY (0) 1 **NORWICH** (0) 0
Jemson 60 (pen) — 5,154

CREWE (1) 1 **NOTTM FOREST** (4) 4
Little 29 — Bart-Williams 10
5,759 — Campbell 15, 25, 30

IPSWICH (0) 3 **CHARLTON** (1) 1
Stockwell 53 — Mendonca 22
Dyer 76 — 19,831
Johnson 88

MAN CITY (0) 0 **OXFORD UTD** (1) 2
28,720 — Beauchamp 44
Cook 81

READING (0) 0 **PORT VALE** (2) 3
7,139 — Mills 7
Talbot 19
Jansson 82

STOKE (0) 1 **HUDDERSFIELD** (2) 2
Tiatto 90 — Barnes 15
12,594 — Stewart 18

SUNDERLAND (1) 4 **STOCKPORT** (0) 1
Quinn 42, 54, 63 — Angell 61
Phillips 86 — 34,870

SWINDON (0) 0 **PORTSMOUTH** (0) 1
9,100 — Durnin 89

WEST BROM (0) 1 **BRADFORD** (1) 1
Burgess 90 — Steiner 39
13,281

SECOND DIVISION

BLACKPOOL (0) 1 **WATFORD** (0) 1
Clarkson 88 — Bazeley 53
5,237
Sent off: G Brabin (Blackpool) 75

BRENTFORD (2) 3 **BOURNEMOUTH** (2) 2
Hutchings 3 — Rolling 36, 42
Bryan 44 — 4,973
Rapley 81

BRISTOL ROVERS (0) 0 **NORTHAMPTON** (1) 2
6,535 — Freestone 34
Dozzell 61 (pen)
Sent off: C Bishop (Northampton) 79

CHESTERFIELD (0) 0 **FULHAM** (0) 2
5,129 — Morgan 50
Blake 76

LUTON (0) 0 **WYCOMBE** (0) 0
6,114

MILLWALL (0) 1 **GILLINGHAM** (0) 0
Law 47 — 8,241

PLYMOUTH (1) 2 **PRESTON** (0) 0
Wotton 36 — 4,201
Conlon 65
Sent off: R Logan (Plymouth) 72

SOUTHEND (0) 0 **GRIMSBY** (0) 1
4,829 — Clare 58

WALSALL (0) 0 **BURNLEY** (0) 0
5,212

WREXHAM (1) 2 **CARLISLE** (1) 2
Ward 45 — Wright 37
Connolly 78 — Stevens 83
4,242

YORK (0) 2 **WIGAN** (1) 2
Thompson 46 — Greenall 45
McGibbon 53 (og) — Jones 72
3,536

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT. Postponed: Oldham v Bristol City

THIRD DIVISION

BRIGHTON (0) 0 **HARTLEPOOL** (0) 0
2,211

HULL (0) 1 **DARLINGTON** (1) 1
Wright 79 — Dorner 33
3,616

LEYTON ORIENT (0) 1 **LINCOLN** (0) 0
Inglethorpe 76 — 4,745
Sent off: T Fleming (Lincoln) 28

MACCLESFIELD (0) 0 **ROTHERHAM** (0) 0
3,156
Sent off: M Monington (Rotherham) 63

MANSFIELD (0) 1 **SHREWSBURY** (1) 1
Peacock 48 — Seabury 18
2,219

NOTTS COUNTY (1) 2 **BARNET** (0) 0
Jones 33 — 6,180
Hughes 85

PETERBOROUGH (0) 1 **EXETER** (1) 1
Cleaver 53 — Clark 32
4,888

ROCHDALE (0) 1 **CHESTER** (0) 1
Lancashire 68 — Murphy 85
1,955

SCUNTHORPE (1) 1 **COLCHESTER** (0) 0
McAuley 17 — 2,143

TORQUAY (0) 0 **CAMBRIDGE UTD** (1) 3
3,809 — Kyd 42
Benjamin 55
Wanless 79

Yesterday

SWANSEA (0) 1 **CARDIFF** (0) 1
Coates 64 — Fowler 58
5,621

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Postponed: Doncaster v Scarborough

GOALSCORERS

FIRST DIVISION: 28: P Van Hooijdonk (Nottm Forest) 24: K Phillips (Sunderland); D Johnson (Ipswich, 8 for Bury) 21: B Angell (Stockport) 19: C Mendonca (Charlton) 17: K Campbell (Nottm Forest) 16: A Armstrong (Middlesbrough, 15 for Stockport); P Furlong (Birmingham) 15: C Hay (Swindon, 1 for Celtic); P Merson (Middlesbrough); J Beauchamp (Oxford Utd). 14: M Beck (Middlesbrough), L Mills (Port Vale) P Thorne (Stoke)

SECOND DIVISION: 22: R Bolt (Walsall) 20: A Thorpe (Fulham, 19 for Luton), B Hayles (Bristol Rovers) 17: A Akinbiyi (Gillingham), S Goater (Bristol City), R Taylor (Brentford) 16: A Cooke (Burnley). 15: P Peschisolido (Fulham, 6 for West Brom) 14: M Stallard (Wycombe), R Rowe (York) 13: C Corazzin (Plymouth), S Barlow (Oldham), P Beadle (Bristol Rovers), K Donovan (Grimsby) P Kennedy (Watford)

THIRD DIVISION: 25: J Quinn (Peterborough) 20: G Jones (Notts County); D Rowbotham (Exeter). 18: S Whitehall (Mansfield) 17: C Griffiths (Leyton Orient). 16: M Carruthers (Peterborough) 15: S Farrell (Notts County); L Glover (Rotherham), 14: G Williams (Scarborough); D Roberts (Peterborough, 14 for Darlington).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Nottm F	36	13	2	3	40	19	8	6	4	20	14	71	(60)
2 Sunderland	35	10	5	2	37	16	10	3	5	29	21	68	(66)
3 Middlesbro	35	12	3	2	32	10	8	5	5	23	28	68	(55)
4 Charlton	36	12	4	1	36	14	6	4	9	27	32	62	(63)
5 Ipswich	36	9	4	4	33	17	6	9	4	26	21	58	(59)
6 Sheff Utd	34	12	4	1	30	13	3	9	5	20	24	58	(50)
7 Birmingham	36	8	6	4	21	12	7	6	5	28	18	57	(49)
8 Stockport	37	12	5	1	41	16	4	1	14	19	37	54	(60)
9 Wolvrhmptn	34	10	5	3	31	18	5	2	9	13	18	52	(44)
10 West Brom	37	8	5	6	19	19	6	4	8	17	23	51	(36)
11 Bradford	37	9	7	2	22	15	3	6	10	16	24	49	(38)
12 Crewe	37	7	2	10	21	30	7	3	8	24	23	47	(45)
13 Swindon	36	9	3	6	25	20	4	4	10	11	31	46	(36)
14 Oxford Utd	36	8	5	4	23	15	4	3	12	22	35	44	(45)
15 Norwich	37	7	7	5	19	23	4	4	10	17	33	44	(36)
16 QPR	37	8	7	4	26	17	2	6	10	16	34	43	(42)
17 Bury	37	5	9	5	17	19	3	9	6	18	24	42	(35)
18 Portsmth	36	7	4	8	24	26	4	3	10	16	23	40	(40)
19 Tranmere	35	6	6	5	21	17	4	4	10	16	25	40	(37)
20 Man City	37	5	4	10	22	22	5	5	8	19	22	39	(41)
21 Huddersfld	37	6	4	8	21	23	4	5	10	18	34	39	(39)
22 Reading	36	7	4	8	25	27	3	5	9	11	32	39	(36)
23 Port Vale	37	5	6	8	20	21	5	2	11	22	32	38	(42)
24 Stoke	37	5	5	8	22	30	3	8	8	13	22	37	(35)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Watford	36	10	4	3	29	18	10	7	2	24	12	71	(53)
2 Bristol City	36	13	4	2	35	15	7	5	5	23	14	69	(58)
3 Grimsby	34	9	6	2	25	9	7	4	6	20	18	58	(45)
4 Northmptn	37	12	4	3	26	14	3	9	6	14	16	58	(42)
5 Fulham	36	10	6	2	21	8	6	3	9	25	24	57	(46)
6 Gillingham	36	10	5	3	24	16	5	4	9	20	26	54	(44)
7 Wrexham	35	8	7	2	25	19	6	5	7	19	23	54	(44)
8 Bristol R	36	9	1	7	29	27	6	7	6	24	26	53	(53)
9 Bournemth	36	9	7	3	25	13	4	4	9	21	26	50	(46)
10 Oldham	35	11	5	1	33	16	1	8	9	15	25	49	(48)
11 Chestrfld	37	9	6	3	22	15	2	9	8	12	20	48	(34)
12 Blackpool	36	10	6	3	30	21	3	2	12	16	32	47	(46)
13 York	36	9	4	5	24	17	2	10	6	18	26	47	(42)
14 Wycombe	37	9	7	2	24	15	2	7	10	17	31	47	(41)
15 Millwall	35	6	6	6	19	18	6	3	8	17	24	45	(36)
16 Walsall	34	7	7	3	20	12	4	3	10	15	26	43	(35)
17 Preston	36	7	4	7	19	19	4	5	9	21	24	42	(40)
18 Carlisle	36	7	5	6	22	21	4	3	11	26	32	41	(48)
19 Wigan	34	7	4	5	28	25	4	4	10	20	26	41	(48)
20 Plymouth	36	7	5	6	28	25	2	7	9	16	29	38	(44)
21 Luton	36	4	8	9	24	34	5	6	6	16	17	39	(40)
22 Brentford	37	8	5	5	29	22	0	9	10	10	36	38	(39)
23 Burnley	35	6	8	3	25	17	2	3	13	15	31	35	(40)
24 Southend	36	7	6	6	23	22	2	1	14	13	41	34	(36)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Notts Co	37	11	5	2	30	16	13	4	2	36	19	81	(66)
2 Torquay	37	13	2	4	35	19	6	6	6	24	27	65	(59)
3 Macclsfld	37	15	4	0	32	8	2	8	8	17	25	63	(49)
4 Barnet	37	9	6	3	30	17	8	4	7	22	23	61	(52)
5 Scarboro	36	12	4	3	39	22	4	5	8	19	28	57	(58)
6 Peterboro	37	10	5	4	32	15	5	7	6	24	22	57	(56)
7 Rotherham	37	9	5	4	33	25	5	9	5	20	22	56	(53)
8 L Orient	36	11	4	3	31	14	4	6	8	17	19	55	(48)
9 Lincoln	36	7	7	4	23	21	7	6	5	19	21	55	(42)
10 Colchester	37	11	4	4	29	18	4	5	9	26	33	54	(55)
11 Chester	37	10	6	3	28	11	5	3	10	23	33	54	(51)
12 Scunthrpe	36	7	6	5	23	22	7	3	8	21	23	51	(44)
13 Exeter	37	7	8	4	29	22	5	6	7	24	27	50	(53)
14 Mansfield	37	8	7	3	32	20	4	5	10	16	24	48	(48)
15 Hartlpool	37	8	10	1	30	16	2	8	8	16	24	48	(46)
16 Darlington	36	11	5	2	34	20	1	5	12	13	37	46	(47)
17 Cambs Utd	37	8	6	4	29	22	2	9	8	19	25	45	(48)
18 Shrwsbury	35	9	2	6	25	21	2	9	7	20	27	44	(45)
19 Cardiff	37	4	11	3	19	17	3	10	6	19	23	42	(38)
20 Swansea	37	6	6	6	19	15	5	2	12	21	36	41	(40)
21 Rochdale	37	10	3	5	28	12	2	2	15	11	33	41	(39)
22 Hull	37	7	5	6	30	28	1	1	17	15	41	30	(45)
23 Brighton	37	2	8	9	16	28	3	5	10	13	24	28	(29)
24 Doncaster	36	2	3	13	9	39	1	4	13	13	49	16	(22)

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP

FIFTH ROUND

FALKIRK (2) 3 **ST JOHNSTONE** (0) 0
Seaton 18 — 6,070
Moss 34, 48

Falkirk: P Mathers, M Corrigan, A Seaton (sub: C McCart, 75min), J McGowan, N Oliver, S McKenzie, K McAllister (sub: B Hamilton, 63), D Hagen, S Crabbe (sub: P McGrillen, 83), D Moss, M Keith.
Booked: Moss.
St Johnstone: A Main, J McQuillan, A Preston, N Dasovic (sub: A Sekerlioglu, 32min), J Weir, A Kernaghan, P Scott (sub: R Grant, 52), J O'Neil (sub: K O'Halloran, 52), P Kane, G O'Boyle, L Jenkinson.
Booked: Weir, Kernaghan, O'Neil, Scott.
Referee: A Freeland.

HEARTS (2) 4 **AYR** (1) 1
Ritchie 9 — Ferguson 19
Flogel 16 — 15,761
Fulton 65
Hamilton 82
Sent off: D Anderson (Ayr) 26

Heart of Midlothian: G Rousset, G Locke, G Naysmith, M Weir, S Salvatori (sub: J Quitongo, 68min), P Ritchie, N McCann (sub: S Callaghan, 84), S Fulton, T Flogel, I Cameron (sub: D Murie, 78), J Hamilton.
Booked: Naysmith.
Ayr: K Finnbogason, J Robertson, G Bowman, A Millen, J Traynor, D Anderson, J Dick, P Agnew, I Ferguson, L Djallo (sub: P Boner, 13min), G Burns (sub: K Hogg, 70)
Booked: Dick, Agnew, Ferguson.
Referee: S Dougal.

Yesterday

DUNDEE UTD (1) 2 **CELTIC** (1) 3
Olofsson 18, 52 — Brattbakk 11
12,640 — Wieghorst 55
Pedersen 90 (og)

Dundee United: S Dykstra, D Bowman, M Malpas, S Pressley, M Perry, E Pedersen, K Olofsson, L Zetterlund, R Winters, J Dolan, A McLaren.
Booked: Bowman, Malpas.
Celtic: J Gould, T Boyd, S Mahé, S Donnelly, M Rieper, A Stubbs, H Larsson, C Burley, H Brattbakk, P Lambert, M Wieghorst.
Booked: Burley, Lambert, Wieghorst.
Referee: K Clark.

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

DUNFERMLINE (1) 2 **MOTHERWELL** (1) 1
Smith 23, 61 — Coyne 12
4,811

Dunfermline: I Westwater, G Shields, M McCulloch, A Tod, D Barnett, C Ireland, D Bingham, C Robertson, A Smith, H French (sub: G Shaw, 73min), S Petrie (sub: R Huxford, 81).
Booked: Shields, Smith
Motherwell: S Woods, K Christie (sub: E May, 69min), S McMillan, R Newman, B Martin, W Falconer, S Valakari (sub: L McCulloch, 84), I Ross (sub: E Garcin, 76), T Coyne, B Davies, O Coyle
Booked: Valakari
Referee: T Brown

FIRST DIVISION

RAITH (1) 1 **AIRDRIE** (0) 1
Fotheringham 34 — McEwan 88 (og)
2,638

ST MIRREN (0) 0 **STIRLING** (1) 2
2,573 — Zahani-Oni 31
Gibson 69

SECOND DIVISION

CLYDE (0) 0 **STENHOUSEMUIR** (0) 0
619
Sent off: A Sprott (Stenhousemuir) 83

INVERNESS CT (0) 1 **STRANRAER** (1) 2
Cherry 80 — Campbell 37
1,582 — Young 60

QUEEN OF SOUTH (2) 5 **FORFAR** (1) 1
Eadie 23, 56 — McLauchlan 32
Townsley 36 (pen) — 1,209
Cleeland 62
Mallan 84

POSTPONED: Brechin v Livingston, Clydebank v East Fife. POOLS PANEL: Brechin v Livingston (HT Score draw, FT away win) Clydebank v East Fife (HT Home win, FT Home win)

THIRD DIVISION

ALBION (1) 2 **DUMBARTON** (1) 2
Donaldson 19 — Grace 41
Walters 46 — Sharp 55 (pen)
417

ALLOA (1) 3 **MONTROSE** (0) 2
Irvine 29 — McGlashan 70 (pen)
Cameron 60, 82 — Wyke 81
495

ARBROATH (1) 1 **ROSS COUNTY** (1) 1
Gallagher 12 (pen) — King 32
784

QUEEN'S PARK (0) 2 **BERWICK** (1) 1
Finlayson 71 — Forrester 32
Ferry 79 — 480

POSTPONED: Cowdenbeath v East Stirling. POOLS PANEL: HT, no score draw, FT no score draw

GOALSCORERS

PREMIER DIVISION: 35: M Negri (Rangers) 22: A Smith (Dunfermline) 19: K Olofsson (Dundee Utd). 17: H Larsson (Celtic); R Winters (Dundee Utd). G McSwegan (Dundee Utd) 14: T Coyne (Motherwell), J Hamilton (Hearts) 13: P Wright (Kilmarnock). O Coyle (Motherwell). 11: G O'Boyle (St Johnstone), J Albertz (Rangers); C Burley (Celtic); S Donnelly (Celtic)

FIRST DIVISION: 15: A Bone (Stirling) 14: J Grady (Dundee) D Moss (Falkirk) 13: S Cooper (Airdrie) 11: K Wright (Raith) 10: E Annand (Dundee), W Hawke (Grk Morton), I Ferguson (Ayr). 9: J Mendes (St Mirren); P Connolly (Airdrie); B McPhee (Airdrie); A Craig (Falkirk)

SECOND DIVISION: 16: I Stewart (Inverness CT). B Thomson (Inverness CT), S Mallan (Queen of South) 13: G Harvey (Livingston). B Honeyman (Forfar). 11: G Young (Stranraer). 10: T Little (Stenhousemuir); K Eadie (Queen of South) 9: C McDonald (Clydebank), M McLauchlan (Forfar). B Wilson (Inverness CT)

THIRD DIVISION: 19: D Adams (Ross County). 17: W Irvine (Alloa) 15: C McGlashan (Montrose) 12: B Spence (Arbroath) 11: K Walton (Berwick)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Celtic	27	10	1	2	34	7	8	3	3	19	11	58	+35
2 Hearts	27	9	2	2	31	18	8	3	3	30	18	56	+25
3 Rangers	27	10	4	0	39	14	5	5	3	21	16	54	+30
4 Kilmarnck	27	6	3	4	16	17	3	5	6	13	28	35	-16
5 St Johnstn	27	5	3	6	15	18	4	3	6	13	16	33	-6
6 Dundee Utd	27	5	5	3	20	11	2	5	7	17	29	31	-3
7 Aberdeen	27	6	5	4	17	14	2	3	8	12	28	29	-13
8 Dunfrmline	27	4	6	4	19	22	3	2	8	12	30	29	-21
9 Motherwell	27	4	3	6	20	21	3	2	9	16	27	26	-12
10 Hibernian	27	4	3	7	21	20	0	4	9	9	29	19	-19

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Dundee	27	6	5	3	15	8	10	3	0	27	7	56	+27
2 Falkirk	27	7	3	3	23	16	7	3	4	22	18	48	+11
3 Raith	26	8	3	2	21	7	4	4	5	17	18	43	+13
4 Airdrie	27	7	5	2	20	14	3	6	4	12	16	41	+2
5 Hamilton	26	4	6	3	14	15	4	3	6	21	22	33	-2
6 St Mirren	27	6	2	5	16	17	2	4	8	14	24	30	-9
7 G Morton	27	4	3	6	18	20	3	6	6	20	22	29	-6
8 Stirling	27	2	7	5	18	28	4	3	6	19	20	28	-11
9 Ayr	27	5	3	6	22	21	2	4	7	8	23	28	-14
10 Partick	27	2	4	7	21	28	3	6	5	14	18	25	-11

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Clydebank	26	6	5	2	19	10	7	5	1	18	8	49	+19
2 Livingston	25	7	2	3	22	16	4	6	3	18	15	41	+10
3 Queen Of S	26	7	4	2	19	11	4	2	7	23	25	39	+6
4 Stranraer	27	6	3	5	27	20	4	4	5	14	18	37	+3
5 Forfar	26	5	4	4	23	21	4	4	5	20	26	35	-4
6 Stenhsmuir	27	6	4	4	23	21	3	3	7	12	19	34	-5
7 East Fife	26	6	2	5	23	26	4	2	7	12	20	34	-11
8 Inverness CT	26	5	6	3	27	17	2	3	7	22	23	30	+9
9 Clyde	27	4	4	5	16	15	2	6	6	16	25	28	-10
10 Brechin	26	4	5	3	15	15	2	4	8	17	33	27	-16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Alloa	26	9	0	4	29	15	8	2	3	27	15	53	+26
2 Arbroath	26	7	4	2	30	17	6	2	5	20	16	45	+17
3 East Stirling	26	9	1	4	24	13	4	2	6	12	20	42	+3
4 Ross Co	24	5	3	3	26	13	6	4	3	19	13	40	+19
5 Albion	24	7	3	1	24	14	4	2	7	20	30	38	0
6 Berwick	26	4	5	5	19	21	4	3	5	16	19	32	-5
7 Queen's Pk	27	5	2	7	19	24	3	6	4	12	13	32	-6
8 Montrose	26	3	3	7	18	25	5	2	6	22	34	29	-19
9 Cowdnbth	26	5	1	7	12	20	4	0	8	13	24	28	-19
10 Dumbarton	27	0	5	8	10	22	4	4	6	23	27	21	-16



Simon Donnelly, of Celtic, fails to block the shot of Erik Pedersen, of Dundee United, during their Scottish FA Cup tie, which Celtic won 3-2. Photograph: Ian Stewart

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

HALIFAX (1) 1 **DOVER** (1) 1
Holme 45 — Strouts 13
1,949

KETTERING (1) 2 **SOUTHPORT** (1) 1
Pearson 5, Wilkes 53 — Ross 24
1,157
Sent off: P Bolland (Southport) 79

NORTHWICH (0) 0 **HEREFORD** (1) 2
1,002 — Leadbeater 44
McGorry 82

RUSHDEN & D (1) 4 **CHELTENHAM** (0) 1
Cramman 33 (pen) — Victory 81
Collins 65 — 3,857
Foster 83, Cooper 87
Sent off: K Knight (Cheltenham) 32
M Freeman (Cheltenham) 54

SLOUGH (1) 2 **HEDNESFORD** (0) 0
Hercules 38 — 770
Fiore 83

STEVENAGE (0) 1 **STALYBRIDGE** (0) 1
Grazioli 90 — Burke 65
2,273

TELFORD (0) 1 **HAYES** (0) 0
Norbury 87 — 631

WOKING (1) 3 **WELLING** (1) 1
Horton 5 (og) — Hanlon 14
Hay 55, Betsy 83 — 2,226
Sent off: D Hay (Woking) 62
T Skeverton (Welling) 82

YEOVIL (0) 2 **MORECAMBE** (1) 3
Pickard 59 — Milner 39
Weston 61 — Shirley 57
2,140 — Ceroalo 84
Sent off: S Hodgson (Morecambe) 22

POSTPONED: Gateshead v Kidderminster; Leek v Farnborough. POOLS PANEL: Gateshead v Kidderminster (HT: away win, FT: home win); Leek v Farnborough (HT: home win; FT: home win).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
		HOME					AWAY					
Halifax	31	13	2	0	37	9	7	5	3	19	20	68
Rushden	31	11	2	3	36	17	8	0	7	25	22	59
Woking	30	10	3	2	33	13	6	5	4	19	15	56
Morecambe	30	8	3	5	27	25	8	3	3	31	16	54
Cheltenham	27	9	4	0	25	10	6	3	5	18	20	52
Hednesford	31	11	3	1	22	10	3	6	7	24	20	51
Hereford	31	9	4	3	25	18	5	4	6	18	20	50
Slough	30	7	3	4	22	14	7	3	6	18	16	48
Southport	30	7	5	3	27	18	4	5	8	18	18	43
Hayes	32	6	3	8	25	22	6	3	6	23	22	42
Dover	29	6	2	5	26	22	3	4	7	19	30	39
Yeovil	29	9	2	4	30	20	2	2	10	18	26	37
Northwich	30	4	7	3	28	18	4	6	6	20	26	37
Welling	30	6	4	5	24	22	4	3	8	18	28	37
Stevenage	30	6	5	4	24	18	3	4	8	16	26	36
Farnborough	31	8	3	5	27	18	2	3	10	15	33	36
Kidderminster	31	5	6	5	28	25	3	4	8	18	24	34
Kettering	30	6	4	6	21	22	2	4	8	13	24	32
Leek	29	5	7	3	25	18	1	4	9	13	30	29
Telford	32	4	4	7	15	23	3	4	10	22	37	29
Stalybridge	31	5	4	7	23	25	1	2	12	10	36	24
Gateshead	29	4	3	7	17	26	8	5	10	15	37	20

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Alfreton 0 Blyth Spartans 3, Altrincham 1 Accrington Stanley 0; Bishop Auckland 1 Gainsborough 3; Boston 1 Spennymoor 3, Emley 1 Colwyn Bay 0, Frickley 1 Marine 1; Hyde 0 Chorley 2 Leigh RMI 0 Guiseley 0. Postponed: Radcliffe v Barrow Runcorn v Winsford

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barrow	31	20	6	5	48	16	66
Boston Utd	32	15	11	6	40	31	56
Runcorn	30	17	4	9	60	39	55
Bishop Auck	33	15	8	10	68	48	53
Altrincham	33	15	7	11	55	34	52
Leigh RMI	28	13	10	5	42	26	49
Emley	30	14	7	9	54	42	49
Guiseley	32	12	13	7	50	42	49
Gainsborough	29	13	6	10	36	31	45
Winsford Utd	30	12	8	10	37	39	44
Chorley	35	13	5	17	43	61	44
Marine	31	11	10	10	41	41	43
Spennymoor	30	11	9	10	45	46	42
Hyde Utd	32	9	13	10	48	44	40
Colwyn Bay	30	11	7	12	43	41	40
Frickley	31	11	7	13	38	47	40
Blyth Sparts	31	10	9	12	42	45	39
Lancaster	34	10	7	17	45	62	37
Accrington S	35	8	12	15	42	51	36
Bamber Brdge	31	6	9	17	38	59	26
Radcliffe B	33	5	10	18	32	57	25
Alfreton Tn	31	2	9	20	24	68	15

FIRST DIVISION: Eastwood Town 4 Netherfield 4, Whitby 1 Ashton 1; Whitley Bay 5 Stocksbridge PS 0; Worksop 2 Farsley Celtic 0. Postponed: Bradford PA v Congleton; Belper Town v Flixton, Burton v Droylesden; Great Harwood v Lincoln; Matlock Town v Gretna, Workington v Harrogate Town.

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Sixth round replay: Tow Law 2 Sudbury W 0

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Chatham 1 Beckenham 2; Cornthian 1 Canterbury 1, Cray 0 Deal 4; Crockenhill 0 Herne Bay 3 Faversham 0 Whitstable 0; Greenwich 0 Swanley Furness 1, Lordswood 1 Ramsgate 1, Slade Green 1 Hythe 1, Thamesmead 1 Erith 3 VCD 1 Folkestone Invicta 4. Postponed: Tunbridge Wells v Sheppey

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Norseman 3 Civil Service 3 West Wickham 1 Polytechnic 0 Lensbury 3 Crouch End Vampires 3 Old Actonians 1 East Barnet OG 0; Lloyds Bank 0 Old Parmiterians 0, South Bank Poly 0 Carshalton 2, Midland Bank 1 Alexandra Park 0 Civil Service 2 Old Salesians 2; Nat West Bank 2 Old Esthameians 2; Old Lyonians 2 Old Latymerians 0 Barclays Bank 3 Winchmore Hill 1; Old Parkonians 4 Old Owens 0; Merton 1 Old Bromleians 6 Bank of England 1 Brentham 0. Postponed: Southgate Olympic v Old Stationers

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior One: City of London 1 St Mary's Coll 1 Senior Two: O Grammarians 5 Westerns 0, O Woodhousians 2 Ealing Assoc 1, Wandsworth Boro 3 Fulham Compton 2

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: C Manning OB 1 Old Tenisonians 0; Enfield OG 0 Latymer OB 0 Old Vaughanians 0 Old Hamptonians 1

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup: Foresters 2 Lancing 1 Salopians 0 Brentwoods 2. Premier division: Etonians 2 Carthusians 3

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: East Ham 0 Brentwood 5; Great Wakering 3 Saffron Walden 0; Hullbridge Sports 1 Basildon 0 Ilford 5 Southend Manor 2 Stansted 1 Bowers 2 Sawbridgeworth 2 Burnham Ramblers 2. Postponed: Eton Manor v Concord

DR MARTENS

PREMIER DIVISION: Atherstone 2 Ashford 1, Burton 2 Gloucester 1, Cambridge City 0 Halesowen 0, Forest Green 0 Gresley 1; King's Lynn 1 Merthyr 1; Salisbury 1 Bath 0; Sittingbourne 2 Crawley 1; Tamworth 1 St Leonards 1; Worcester 1 Dorchester 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Forest Green	32	20	6	6	75	45	66
Merthyr	31	19	8	4	56	28	65
Worcester C	32	18	4	10	43	33	58
Dorchester	32	16	9	7	50	26	57
Kings Lynn	31	18	9	6	54	48	57
Halesowen	33	15	11	7	56	27	56
Atherstone	33	16	7	10	50	40	55
Bath	32	15	9	8	60	41	54
Nuneaton	33	16	5	12	63	47	53
Burton Albion	33	15	7	11	50	36	52
Crawley Town	34	12	8	14	52	55	44
Gloucester C	33	11	9	13	40	42	42
Gresley Rvrs	33	12	4	17	50	62	40
Tamworth	32	11	6	15	52	54	39
Hastings	31	10	8	13	52	56	38
Salisbury	33	9	9	15	41	59	36
Rothwell Town	33	7	13	13	41	62	34
Sittingbourne	33	9	5	19	40	56	32
Bromsgrove	31	9	4	18	49	83	31
Cambridge C	29	8	7	14	42	58	31
Ashford Town	30	6	3	21	24	66	21
St Leonards	32	4	7	21	37	75	19

MIDLAND DIVISION: Brackley 4 Wisbech 6 Grantham 1 Evesham 0; Hinckley 1 Paget 0 Ilkeston 3 Corby 0, Moor Green 2 Bedworth 0; Raunds 1 Stafford 2 Stourbridge 3 Redditch 3 Sutton Coldfield Town 0 Solihull Boro 2. Southern division: Erith and Belvedere 1 Fisher 0; Margate 2 Chelmsford 2; Tonbridge Angels 1 Fleet 3, Trowbridge 0 Cinderford 0; Witney 3 Dartford 1; Havant 1 Waterlooville 1. Postponed: Clevedon v Weymouth, Newport IOW v Baldock; Weston-s-Mare v Cirencester; Yate v Fareham.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division south: Cockfosters 1 Brook House 3. Postponed: Harefield v Haringey Boro, Ruislip Manor v Barkingside, St Margaretsbury v Beaconsfield; Waltham Abbey v Amersham; Wood-ford v Hanwell. Premier division north: Arlesey 3 Letchworth 0, Biggleswade 3 Milton Keynes 0, Buckingham Athletic 2 Langford 2, Hoddesdon 2 Bedford 1; Royston 3 London Colney 1, Toddington 0 Brache Sparta 1; Welwyn Garden 2 Potters Bar 2.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Bridgwater v Barnstaple; Brislington v Chard, Calne v Bristol Manor Farm, Chippenham v Backwell, Keynsham v Bridport, Torrington v Melksham

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Blorwich Town 0 Boldmere St M 3; Chasetown 0 Halesowen H 1 Kings Norton 1 Rocester 1; Oldbury U 3 Pelsall V 3, Rushall O 0 Knypersley V 1 Stratford T 0 Barwell 2 W Mid Police 1 Sandwell 0. Postponed: Bridgnorth v Wednesfield; Stapenhill v Willenhall.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford 2 Ash 3 Chipstead 3 Farnham 2; Cove 0 Feltham 1, Cranleigh 1 Merstham 3; Godalming and Guildford 4 Bedfont 2 Hartley Wintney 1 Sandhurst 2; Walton Casuals 1 Cobham 2. Postponed: Chessington and Hook v Netherne; Viking Sports v Reading. Premier challenge cup: Westfield 2 Raynes Pk Vale 3

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich 3 Westfields 1 Bustleholme 0 Gornal 2 Ettingshall 1 Darlaston 4 Kington 4 Walsall Wood 1 Ludlow 0 Stourport 4, Lye 1 Brierley Hill 0 Stafford 1 Cradley 0. Postponed: Wolverhampton v Malvern

RYMANS

PREMIER DIVISION: Basingstoke 1 Carshalton 2; Chesham 4 Hendon 1; Dagenham and Redbridge 2 Aylesbury 3; Gravesend and Northfleet 1 Kingstonian 2; Harrow 2 Bromley 3; Heybridge Swifts 0 Purfleet 1, Hitchin 2 Bishop's Stortford 4; St Albans 0 Enfield 4; Sutton United 1 Dulwich 1; Walton and Hersham 1 Boreham Wood 4; Yeading 1 Oxford City 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingstonian	33	19	10	4	63	29	67
Sutton Utd	33	19	9	5	64	37	66
Dag & Red	32	17	7	8	54	37	58
Boreham Wd	28	17	6	5	61	28	57
Enfield	33	15	6	12	55	42	51
Purfleet	33	14	9	10	51	46	51
Heybridge	30	15	5	10	54	41	50
Bromley	30	12	8	10	42	37	44
Hendon	31	12	8	11	41	46	44
Walton & H	32	13	5	14	41	53	44
Aylesbury	31	12	5	14	44	51	41
Gravesend & N	35	11	7	17	56	63	40
Dulwich	32	10	9	13	45	50	39
Harrow Boro	30	11	5	14	41	48	38
Carshalton	30	10	8	12	48	55	38
St Albans	30	11	4	15	37	48	37
Yeading	32	9	9	14	33	48	36
Bishop's S	33	11	2	20	42	56	35
Basingstoke	28	9	7	12	32	45	34
Chesham	30	8	7	15	51	58	31
Hitchin	32	7	10	15	37	48	31
Oxford City	32	6	8	18	27	57	26

FIRST DIVISION: Abingdon Town 0 Molesey 3; Aldershot Town 4 Uxbridge 0; Berkhamsted 3 Thame 3, Billericay 2 Croydon 1; Bognor Regis 1 Hampton 2; Staines 1 Leatherhead 1; Wembley 0 Grays 1; Whyteleafe 1 Barton 1; Wokingham 0 Maidenhead 1. Postponed: Leyton Pennant v Chertsey, Worthing v Romford. Second division: Banstead 1 Chalfont St Peter 2; Bedford Town 2 Barking 0, Cheshunt 1 Bracknell 0; Marlow 4 Tooting and Mitcham 3; Met Police 1 Canvey Island 2; Tilbury 1 Braintree 4, Windsor and Eton 1 Wealdstone 2; Witham 2 Wivenhoe 1. Postponed: Edgware v Leighton; Egham v Hungerford; Northwood v Horsham. Third division: East Thurrock 3 Lowes 0; Hackwell Heath 2 Hornchurch 3; Ford 1 Croydon 0; Hemel Hempstead 1 Aveley 0; Hertford 2 Epsom and Ewell 1; Kingsbury 1 Harlow 5; Southall 1 Corinthian Casuals 1; Ware 1 Wingate and Finchley 0. Postponed: Clapton v Tring; Dorking v Camberley

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Arundel v Peacehaven and Telscombe, Hailsham v Horsham YMCA; Hassocks v Mile Oak; Redhill v Ringmer; Wick v Pagham

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town 0 Sudbury 1; Gorleston 0 Histon 0, Soham 4 Woodbridge 1, Stowmarket 3 Great Yarmouth 2; Tiptree 0 Fakenham 5. Watton 1 Harwich and Parkeston 3; Wroxham 1 Halstead 0. Postponed: Ely v Felixstowe Port and town.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington 4 Christchurch 1; Aerostructures 0 Downton 2; BAT 2 Bemerton Heath Harl 1; Cowes Sports 3 Whitchurch 1; East Cowes 6 Romsey 0; Eastleigh 4 Andover 1 Gosport 1 Bournemouth 1, Portsmouth RN 0 Thatcham 2. Postponed: Brockenhurst v Totton.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Burscough 1 Clitheroe 2; Chadderton 4 Darwen 1; Glossop North End 4 Holker Old Boys 0; Kidsgrove 1 Prescot Cables 3, Mossley 2 Nantwich 2, Rossendale 1 Blackpool Rovers 1; St Helens 4 Haslingden 2; Vauxhall GM 4 Salford 1; Warrington 0 Maine Road 0. Postponed: Atherton LR v Newcastle Town; Ramsbottom v Atherton Collieries.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Arnold Town 4 Pontefract Cols 1; Brigg Town 2 Armthorpe Welfare 1; Curzon Ashton 1 Thackley 2; Hatfield Main 1 Ossett Town 1; Maltby MW 0 Selby Town 3; Pickering Town 3 Ossett Albion 2. Postponed: Eccleshill Utd v Sheffield; Glasshoughton Welfare v North Ferriby United; Hallam v Denaby United.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch 0 Worcester 4; Boldmere Swifts 3 Kenilworth 0; Chesslyn Hay 0 Bilston Community College 3; Coleshill 0 Kings Heath 1; GPT (Coventry) 1 Dudley Sports 0; Knowle 0 Massey Ferguson 1. Postponed: Highgate v Coventry Sphinx; Meir KA v Wellesbourne; Southam v David Lloyd AFC; Studley BKL v Continental Star.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington 2 Stockton 1; Billingham Town 0 Seaham Red Star 1; Dunston Federation 3 Northallerton 1; Easington 1 Durham 2; Murton 0 Billingham Synthonia 4. Postponed: Jarrow Roofing v Consett; Morpeth v Guisborough; Penrith v Crook; RTM Newcastle v Shildon.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Almondsbury 1 Banbury 2; Fairford 6 Kintbury 2; Harrow Hill 0 Burnham 3. Postponed: Hallen v Shortwood; North Leigh v Wantage; Tuffley v Didcot.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne 2 Stotfold 3; Desborough 6 Kempston 0; Ford Sports 2 Potton 2; Holbeach 1 Cogenhoe 6; M Blackstone 1 Buckingham 0; N Spencer 1 Long Buckby 0; Wootton 1 Yaxley 4.

AFA SENIOR CUP: Semi-finals: O Ignatians 5 O Meadonians 3. Postponed: Hampstead Heathens v O Aloysians

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal 1 Gillingham 3; Cambridge Utd 0 Ipswich Town 1; Fulham 3 QPR 1; Norwich City 2 Crystal Palace 1; Tottenham 0 Millwall 0; West Ham Utd 2 Leyton Orient 3. Postponed: Portsmouth v Charlton; Watford v Southend Utd. Second division: Bournemouth 0 Bristol City 2; Wycombe 1 Barnet 1. Postponed: Bristol Rovers v Brighton; Swindon v Tottenham; Wimbledon v Oxford Utd

FA PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: Arsenal 2 QPR 1; Chelsea 1 Tottenham 1; Crystal Palace 1 West Ham 1; Leeds 1 Barnsley 2; Southampton 1 Wimbledon 1. Postponed: Middlesbrough v Sheff Wed.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP: Qualifiers: England 0 Germany 1; Ireland 4 Wales 0.

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Aston Villa 2 Wolverhampton 0; Garswood St Helens 2 Sheff Wed 1. Southern division: Southampton Saints 4 Ipswich 0; Whitehawk 3 Langford 4. Postponed: Brighton and Hove v Three Bridges.

NATIONAL

LEAGUE OF WALES: Cwmbran 0 Barry 3; Ebbw Vale 10 Cemaes Bay 1; Haverfordwest 2 Bangor City 2; Inter Cable-Tel 1 Caersws 0, Rhyl 2 Flint Town 0; Welshpool 1 Conwy 2. Postponed: Caernarfon v Total Network Solutions; Newtown v Aberystwyth; Porthmadog v Connah's Quay.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Coleraine 0 Ballymena 0; Crusaders 0 Cliftonville 2; Glenavon 3 Portadown 0, Linfield 3 Glentoran 0. Postponed: Omagh v Ards. First division: Ballyclare 2 Bangor 1; Larne 0 Distillery 1. Newry 3 Limavady 1. Postponed: Dungannon Swifts v Carrick.

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Quarter-final: Cork City 2 Sligo Rovers 0; St Patrick's Ath 2 Shelbourne 2, UCD 0 Finn Harps 1. Postponed: Athlone v Longford. Premier division: Kilkenny v Dundalk.

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
3	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	3	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	2
3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	3	3	2	3	1	2	3	1	3	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3

FORECAST: Half-time: no claims required — winnings sent automatically — forecast is moderate; five score draws and 17 no-score draws. Full-time: no claims required — forecast is moderate, 10 score draws and six no-score draws.

ITV takes chequered flag in the early hours



ROB HUGHES

TV ACTION REPLAY

The long, late night's viewing of the first Formula One race of the season in Melbourne suggests that motor racing is safe with ITV, and that no one should advocate taking the Scalextric off Murray Walker. A septuagenarian old Murray may be, but he is a teenager at heart, still bubbling with stamina and enthusiasm, and if we were looking for those entertaining gaffes, they were few and far between. "He's not prepared to pay attention to instructions he hasn't had!" Walker breathed after Mika Hakkinen had, apparently, received orders to slow down after his uninvited pit stop.

It turned out well for Hakkinen after his McLaren-Mercedes team-mate, David Coulthard, honoured a pre-race agreement that whoever reached the first corner first would, barring unforeseen intervention from all the decidedly lesser cars, be allowed to take the chequered flag.

That we saw the dramatic moments, seemingly losing none, was ITV's triumph. Clearly, the handicap of moving Formula One from BBC to commercial television is commercial breaks — there were five during the 58 laps; advertisements virtually exclusively male-orientated, for booze, cars and pensions. They deprived the viewer of ten laps and it spoke volumes for the television direction, and the ability of Walker and his co-commentator, Martin Brundle, that they negotiated this with a near-seamless narration of the state of play.

ITV, in charging for its product, has spared little expense to ensure there is expertise. More than that, there was prescience through Saturday night-Sunday morning.

Stirling Moss, on whom Channel 4 had lavished five sepia-toned hours of nostalgic air time before ITV took over, had been a brief studio guest of the relaxed, authoritative Jim Rosenthal. Of Coulthard, Moss, his racing days over almost 40 years ago, commented: "He's a nice, clean-cut guy, who maybe needs to be more of a bastard, because, in racing today, Mr Nice Guy doesn't always win."

That remark came to mind when Coulthard, having lost the race for the first corner, gave way to his team-mate and sacrificed a certain win.

Hakkinen led from start to finish — apart from the moment of aberration when he drove into the pit lane, and straight through the pits when he realised no one was ready for him. Walker and Brundle were, legitimately, confused. "What is going on? What is Mika doing?" Walker asked, his voice revving up to its highest pitch. Brundle, the test driver still so in tune with the art that he can almost spot an error or mechanical failure before it happens, admitted that he had no idea.

And together, the paternalist Walker and the earnest Brundle went off air without being able to clear up the mystery of why Hakkinen had apparently misheard or misread the signals. But that is "live" television, and full marks to ITV for giving the aficionados of motor racing the option of sitting through the night, or watching a rerun yesterday morning.

CBS Television, in America, had made calamitous miscalculations in dealing with a similar 11-hour time difference during the Nagano Olympics, withholding coverage until daytime, losing the essence of the unknown outcome of sport — and returning the lowest viewing figures in their history.

A word here of Brundle. He has been criticised for having neither the wit nor the charisma of Walker's late commentating partner, James Hunt. But, with Walker the entertainer, why should Brundle be anything other than a thoroughly reliable disseminator of information? His walk around the grid, moments before the green light, took us almost into the helmets of some of the drivers in their most nervous pre-race concentration. Intense but unobtrusive, he knew that Johnny Herbert was approachable; that Heinz-Harald Frentzen, for example, was not.

Brundle detected a whiff of blue smoke from Michael Schumacher's Ferrari before even the television cameras could catch it. We knew that Schumacher's attempt at redemption after the crash at Jérez last year was forlorn even before his engine blew up 11 minutes into the race. "That will be happening at 16,000 revs," Brundle commented. He then remained silent as Schumacher threw his £10,000 steering wheel out of the cockpit and kicked a tyre.

Before the race, and as soon as the drivers had removed their helmets after it, ITV's eager team had microphones under the noses of everyone who counted. They informed, they entertained, and the time passed incredibly quickly — even with recourse to the video recorder.

Given the energy with which Formula One's owner, Bernie Ecclestone, is courting new clients in China, Korea, Indonesia and Las Vegas, we had better get used to watching Formula One in the dead of night. A boon for insomniacs.

'The haberdashers of Coventry wait in vain for a repeat of the great ribbon rush of 11 years ago'

City just going through emotions



LYNNE TRUSS

This time 11 years ago, the city of Coventry was alight with Cup hopes. Or at least, that's what a nice Highfield Road steward told me before the quarter-final against Sheffield United on Saturday. In that momentous year, when Coventry City won the Cup, the people fixed sky-blue ribbons to their car aerials in early March, made replica silhouette trophies out of cardboard and silver paper (bless them), and sang lustily the old *Que Sera* thing about going to Wember-lee. From what the steward told me, Coventry haberdashers must still go all misty-eyed at the mere mention of 1987. The people who blew up all the balloons, moreover, still haven't quite caught their breath.

This time it's clearly different, however. A quarter-final, drawn at home by fantastic luck to a first-division team laid low by management mayhem and an injury list of almost biblical proportions, found people still holding back. There was lots of noise, of course. Yet Coventry haberdashers wait in vain for the great ribbon rush, with the door open and the clock ticking, and a dog asleep on the counter. Car aerials are everywhere unadorned, as if waiting for a sign. Meanwhile tickets for the match on Saturday had a £2 programme-included-in-the-price surcharge, and punters whined "But what if I don't *want* a programme?" — hardly a vote of confidence in their team's second historic Cup run. If you really thought you were going to win the Cup, you'd buy two of these lovely programmes, wouldn't you? So that you could keep one for posterity in a plastic bag.

But at least the press were in no doubt about the game beforehand. The Blades were easy meat, almost a formality. Ho hum, going through the motions really, roll on the next round, what time's the draw? Poor old Sheffield United, it's so long since the first team played, nobody can remember what they look like. "What shall we say, 5-0 by half-time?" was the merry quip in the press box. One man said he'd buy me a slap-up hotel dinner if Marcelo scored. Which was odd, because Marcelo did score, and I still ended up at the Little Chef at Toddington services, with a cup of tea, baked beans and an omelette, taking my usual break from David Mellor on *Six-O-Six*.

I'll confess I wasn't expecting much from either team on Saturday. Last time I saw the Blades (at Portsmouth), a fan assaulted the assistant referee, their goalkeeper was sent off, and they played not so much like blades as a bag of spanners. As for Coventry, their relentless chippiness (blame Gordon Strachan) had always made my pulse drop to a flat-line at the mere mention of their name. Do you know, Darren Huckerby actually runs about with his shoulders permanently hunched in line with his ears? What a picture of uptight irritability. Drop those shoulders, Darren. Drop them at once. Now breathe out deeply, and relax.

Well, the match defied every expectation, even mine. Notably, the United defence played like fiends, and their goalkeeper, Alan Kelly, was phenomenal — diving, blocking, deflecting, levitating, and on one occasion making the ball turn into a hundred doves. But the interesting thing in the circumstances was that Coventry didn't raise their game. Did they think they shouldn't have to work this hard? Or did they run out of ideas? After 30 minutes, Dublin scored the first goal, for Coventry, from a penalty. Then, in stoppage time in the first half, Marcelo sneaked a shock equaliser, the place went mad, and the whistle blew. Gosh, how would Coventry repay them in the second half? Lumme, look out you Blades, we thought.

Yet until the bizarre happenings of the last minutes, "muchness" was the phrase that continually came to mind with Coventry. Their performance had no highs and lows, ups and downs, or even (sadly) ins and outs. George Boateng played well, but otherwise "muchness" covered it. Sometimes it was Moldovan who launched the first shot on goal, which rebounded off the excellent Kelly to Whelan (who missed). Sometimes it was Huckerby's that rebounded to Moldovan. I stopped noticing, to be honest.

And then, of course, something sensational happened, in stoppage time of the second half. Steve Ogrizovic, the veteran Coventry goalkeeper, spotted Petr Katchouro running fast in his direction, unmarked. Alarmingly, Katchouro seemed to have the ball. Yike. Ogrizovic made a lightning decision, rushed out 30 yards, dived, knocked the ball back to Katchouro's feet (oh, no), and then watched aghast from turf-level as the Belarussian Blade barrelled off goalwards with no one to stop him.

Well, I can't remember being more excited, ever. Ogrizovic turned and sped back, time stood still, there was a thunder of seats upturning as everyone stood up and pointed, and then miraculously it was all over. Ogrizovic had prevented the inevitable goal, by forcing Katchouro wide. We all sat down again, stunned. After this, Ogrizovic clutched his chest a lot, and bent double — but it was hard to feel sorry for him, when it was all his fault in the first place.

Doubtless Coventry will win the replay at Bramall Lane on Tuesday week. But I keep thinking of that nice Stevenage Borough manager, Paul Fairclough, who trained his players to say "I love this", and wondering why he is alone in this interesting tactic. Coventry could do with loving it a bit. At present, they seem mildly affronted by it. A history of success without glory has made them disappointed and spikey. Consistently in the top division, for years on end, they nevertheless watch the Duraglit salesman dither at their front gate once a month and decide, on balance, not to call.

And when will the fans let go and enjoy it? Well, not yet, clearly. Fans who had already cut_out cardboard for replica cups got home after the match, looked at their handiwork with a puzzled expression, and then burst into tears. Oh, yes. After the heart-stopping moment provided by Ogrizovic on Saturday, Midlands haberdashers can expect a continued lull.

PHIL COLE / ALLSPORT



DAVID CONNON / ALLSPORT



Strachan is hoping that the finger of fate is pointing to a repeat of the glory days of 1987. But do the team and the people of Coventry want it badly enough?

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211
They should include a daytime telephone number

SPORTS LETTERS

e-mail to letters@the-times.co.uk
It should include address and telephone number

Effects of ban on women

From Mr Richard Philips

Sir, The dinosaurs at MCC may, by their non-acceptance of women as full members, have prompted the Government to act in forcing all single-sex sports clubs to change their constitutions so that they are open on an equal basis to both sexes.

At London Rowing Club's AGM last autumn, those present voted that the constitution should be changed so that women could become full rowing members. However, it was agreed that the change would only come into effect when the necessary facilities to enable them to be equal partners were in place.

We do not want to change our rules simply for the sake of political correctness, but wish to move the club forward into the next millennium. To make the necessary structural alterations to our 150-year-old building, to accommodate oarswomen's facilities, we are having to appeal to our existing and former membership for the funds. The only reasonable basis on which we can appeal to an all-male existing membership is that the plans will ensure there will be no significant loss of amenities available to the male members. Our schemes and plans are therefore ambitious and expensive and the fundraising process may take some time.

The future of the club will not be helped if the heavy hand of government steps in and forces us into making premature changes that will be detrimental to our existing membership and not enable us to attract any women members.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD PHILIPS,
10 Broughton Avenue,
Ham, Surrey TW10 7TS.

MCC membership

From Mr Richard White

Sir, If the Committee of MCC wishes to approve applications for membership from women, it will have to give more thought to the effects, rather than just the principle.

The current waiting list is such that an applicant is likely to be at least 40 before becoming a member, unless qualification is through playing. Is one consequence that many applications are for status rather than cricketing reasons? Simply opening membership to female applicants could make this worse.

A greater proportion of new memberships should be given to proven cricketers of either sex. The less able should satisfy a stricter test, demonstrating long service to cricket at school, youth or club level during their period on the waiting list.

This would ensure a high level of interest in cricket, gradually reduce the elitist element and the ageing membership and provide equal opportunities for men and women.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WHITE,
94 Richmond Park Road,
SW14 8LA.

Commentators' idiosyncratic use of English

From Mr Graham Bell

Sir, I was amused by your correspondent (Michael Henderson, TV Action Replay) getting upset at the use of the expression "day one" by the Sky cricket commentators (and, indeed, by other idiosyncratic use of English by those speaking about sport).

For years I have been irritated by the development of sports-speak. For me it started when the golf commentators (post-Longhurst) started to use Americanisms which have now sadly become commonplace. Cups, traps and back nines (famously once a back-side) have usurped holes, bunkers and inward halves.

I could go on but my wife is convinced that my increased irritation with these matters is associated with old-age induced irascibility — the latter also causing an increase in the writing of letters like this one.

Yours faithfully,
B. GRAHAM BELL,
11 Waulkmill Drive, Penicuik,
Midlothian EH26 8LA.
graham.bell4@which.net

Grand prix places

From Mr Brian Wilkinson

Sir, One of several reasons why action must be taken regarding yesterday's contrived finish to the Australian Grand Prix is to protect those who bet on the result of the race. In any other sport, the miscreants would be the subjects of very severe penalties. Messrs Coulthard, Hakkinen and the McLaren team have lost a tremendous amount of goodwill in this country through their ill-conceived action.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN WILKINSON,
112B Church Street,
Highbridge,
Somerset TA9 3HN.

Referee's penalty

From Mr Paul Darley

Sir, Russell Kempson's report (February 25) on the dropping of a football referee for an unsatisfactory performance strikes a chord.

For forty years I have played hockey as a goalkeeper. Even from the remote and restricted territory imposed by my position, I have never ceased to be appalled at the senseless questioning of umpires' decisions. If umpires, and referees, made the same number of mistakes in the course of a match as most players, then there might well be cause to complain.

Your report implies that Dermot Gallagher's suspension is for failing to send someone off for a "professional" foul. If there is no more to it than that I have the utmost sympathy for the referee. Most of us have been spared the ignominy of being dropped for more mistakes in one match than Mr Gallagher probably makes in a season.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL DARLEY,
18 Ivatt Walk,
Banbury OX16 7WE.

Should drugs be allowed?

From Mr Nick Burrows

Sir, Wilf Paish's and John Bryant's arguments (Bryant's Eye, February 26) for the banning of drugs because of prevalence and health risks are both missing the point.

Drugs are used in sport to help performance enhancement. In that, they are no different from the myriad other techniques and activities that athletes use for the same reason, but is it not time to examine the rules that arbitrarily outlaw some methods of performance enhancement but not others?

There seem to be three arguments for stopping drug use in sport: first, that is inequitable; secondly that is hazardous to health; and thirdly, because it is unnatural.

The proper response to the first is that there is never a level playing field in sport. For reasons ranging from the availability of facilities to the equipment that athletes use while competing, there will always be athletes with competitive advantages over others. The new skate used by some speedskaters in the Winter Olympics is an example.

To answer the second argument one only needs to look at the countless sports that involve and encourage practices that are health-damaging, both in training and in competition. Any health risk that may or may not result from drug use in sport is no worse than many of these.

And finally, the fact that the advantage obtained by drug use may be unnatural does not distinguish it from any other method of performance enhancement. Lycra body suits, altitude training, carbohydrate boosting, — these are hardly natural.

The only way that athletes will ever compete on a level playing field is if they have all had the same dietary and educational opportunities during their development, the same access to facilities and coaches with which to train and compete, and if they all compete naked or with identical equipment.

Is it not about time that drug use was allowed, providing the athletes are over 18 and that use is monitored by doctors? Of course it would not stop all cheating but we would be spared the ignorant an hysterical reaction to the ends to which athletes will go to improve their performance.

Yours faithfully,
NICK BURROWS,
169/173 Regent Street,
W1R 8QH.

This week in THE TIMES



■ **Tomorrow**
What are the ramifications of Clive Woodward's ultimatum to England's rugby players over the summer tours? David Hands reports on the club v country controversy.

■ **Thursday**
Manchester United and Arsenal resume the chase for the Premiership title against West Ham and Wimbledon.

■ **Friday**
What are England's prospects of levelling the series after the first day of the fifth Test in Barbados?

■ **Saturday**
Football Saturday: the Premiership match-by-match, Oliver Holt, Frank Leboeuf and Danny Baker.

Twin towers happy to restore traditional values

Wales..... 19
Scotland..... 13

BY MARK SOUSTER

WALES and Scotland can hold their heads a little higher this morning and prepare for their next matches, against Ireland and England respectively, with something bordering on confidence. It is not often that two sides can emerge from the same match with pride intact and reputations enhanced, but both teams can take credit and draw satisfaction from their performances at Wembley on Saturday — Wales, of course, because they won, but Scotland too because they produced their best rugby since the memorable defeat of France at Murrayfield two years ago. If only they could develop a killer instinct and a reliable goalkicker.

Each country was starting from a low point, so anything could be considered an improvement. But this was more; a raw, riveting game, full of passion and commitment, played at pace and with no little skill. It was only in the last quarter, when the victory that both sides craved lay tantalisingly within reach, that the emphasis changed.

Above all it was absorbing because the result remained in doubt until Arwel Thomas kicked his third penalty goal with three minutes remaining. How many times this season have we become bored with a match that is over after half an hour, chiefly because the lawmakers, in their misguided wisdom, have gone out of their way to sanitise the game? This was entertainment as we want it, not the basketball that too often passes for rugby nowadays.

"We did not command the game but at least we won," Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, said. "We can and will get better." After the humiliation at Twickenham, relief and jubilation was the verdict of Rob Howley, the captain. "The last two weeks have been the worst of my career," he said. "We had our backs to the wall, but we had to dig deep and I couldn't have asked for more from my players."

Wales's horizons, by necessity, were limited, winning was all that mattered: but credit is due because, with a ten-point deficit after 34 minutes, they were facing further humiliation. A ten-minute period either side of half-time saved them, as did their forwards, who picked up the pace in the second half and scrummaged effectively. First, Thomas, who had replaced Neil Jenkins, kicked two vital penalty goals, then Proctor scored Wales's only try, to which Thomas added a towering conversion. Suddenly, 13-3 was turned into 16-13, and from then on it was time to hang on.

FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP

Whether they should have been able to was a moot point because Scotland glaringly failed to capitalise on three golden opportunities in the second half. First, Townsend failed to put away Adam Roxburgh in a two-on-one situation after the Northampton player had initiated a sweeping move from a quickly taken drop-out on his own 22. Then Rowen Shepherd opted to chip Kevin Morgan instead of passing to Rob Wainwright, who was galloping at his side. The third was not Scotland's fault but that of Joel Dumé, the referee, who bewilderingly chose not to play advantage after Craig Chalmers had been flattened by Gareth Thomas's high tackle. Chalmers had chipped over the Wales defence and Wainwright was in possession with a free run to the line, yet Dumé whistled instantly for a penalty that Shepherd missed.

It could be argued that Shepherd's arrival on the field as a substitute for the injured Derrick Lee after 29 minutes was a turning point. From the first minute, when Scotland, via Lee, ran from under their own posts, eyes were opened. This was not the straitjacketed, inhibited Scotland fumbling in the dark. This was a side with confidence and ability to take the game to Wales. Townsend was a breath of fresh air, revelling in the wide open spaces and perfect playing surface that Wembley offers.

Lee was a key ingredient too, his extra speed and more mercurial talents complimenting those of Townsend, who scored Scotland's first try after seven minutes. Shepherd entered into the spirit of things, but he is a different type of player and it was his mistake when running out of defence that resulted in the Wales try. Instead of kicking long and turning Wales, his pass behind his back went to ground; Gibbs and Gareth Thomas prised open the Scotland defence for the only time, from a lineout, and Proctor squeezed in.

Wales meet Ireland in a fortnight while Scotland face England the following day. Asked what team he expected to face, the canny Jim Telfer replied: "The one they pick." It is the playing, not the politics, that interest him.

SCORERS: Wales: Try: Proctor (44min); Conversion: A Thomas. Penalty goals: A Thomas 3 (39, 40, 77), N Jenkins (9). Scotland: Tries: Townsend (7), Cronin (34) Penalty goal: Chalmers (19).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Wales first): 0-5, 3-5, 3-10, 3-13, 8-13, 9-13 (half-time), 16-13, 19-13.
WALES: K A Morgan (Pontypridd), W T Proctor (Llanelli), A G Bateman (Richmond), I S Gibbs (Swansea), G Thomas (Cardiff); N R Jenkins (Pontypridd; rep: A C Thomas, Swansea, 18min); R Howley (Cardiff); A L P Lewis (Cardiff), G R Jenkins (Swansea; rep: J M Humphreys, Cardiff, 70), D Young (Cardiff), M J Voyle (Llanelli), A P Moore (Swansea), R C Appleyard (Swansea; rep: L S Quinnell, Richmond, 60), K P Jones (Ebbw Vale), C L Charvis (Swansea).
SCOTLAND: D J Lee (London Scottish; rep: R J S Shepherd, Melrose, 30), A G Stanger (Hawick), G P J Townsend (Northampton), A V Tait (Newcastle), S Longstaff (Dundee HSFP); C M Chalmers (Melrose), G Armstrong (Newcastle); D I W Hilton (Bath), G C Bulloch (West of Scotland), M J Stewart (Northampton; rep: G Graham, Newcastle, 67), D F Cronin (Wasps; rep: S B Grimes, Watsonians, 51), G W Weir (Newcastle), R I Wainwright (Dundee HSFP), A J Roxburgh (Kelso), E W Peters (Bath).
Referee: J Dumé (France).

PHOTOGRAPHS: MARC ASPLAND



Townsend, who had an outstanding match, is hauled back from the line by Morgan



First race, first place.

The Team: West McLaren Mercedes
The Driver: M. Hakkinen
The Tyre: Bridgestone

FORMULA 1 The Challenge

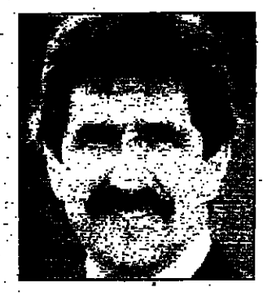
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POTENZA S-02 Pole Position

BRIDGESTONE

Loyal pilgrims savour their house-warming

GERALD DAVIES



At Wembley

Considering the many defeats that Wales's proud army of followers have had to suffer in the past decade — and the last humbling retreat from Twickenham two weeks ago left them more dispirited and shell-shocked than has been their custom — it is a source of wonder to find that their optimism, sense of loyalty, but most of all, I suspect, the sheer love of rugby football — and it cannot be anything less than that — should remain undiminished.

Until Saturday, Wales had won only three of their past 15 internationals against teams from the original members of the International Rugby Board. Yet despite this poor record and, despite the disgraceful railway service from Wales which ensured that trains ran late, in one case two hours late, Wembley Stadium, for its first Five Nations Championship match, was full.

At the risk of heresy, the atmosphere at Wembley is more amenable than has been the case of late at Cardiff Arms Park. The mood in this corner of North London is affably relaxed; less of a stag party than a hob-nobbing house-warming one. The shindig, cordial but one which can still get out of hand, is not weighed down by an anxious burden of the past; a man is more likely to put on his best manners when in someone else's front room than he is in his own kitchen with only his nearest and dearest around.

Enjoying an away-day excursion represents a more companionable outing. Without the restrictions imposed by limited tickets at Cardiff it is no longer, to begin with, primarily for adult males; nor even for couples. There are children who, for the first time perhaps, can be parading the joyous paraphernalia of their country's colours instead of watching in front of the television. The experience is alive and touching. This is not an inconsiderable matter. It is the spirit of the rugby league Challenge Cup final invading rugby union preserve.

To add to this, Wales won. I do not think on Saturday evening Wales wished to look beyond that bald fact. No doubt there were those who attempted to analyse the day's proceedings, its ebb and flow, which by and large came out in Scotland's favour. But Wales's contingent would not have their minds, professionals or not, on such minutiae. For the moment they were set free of their navel-gazing neurosis of the previous two weeks.

Scotland felt hard done by, highlighting the moment when Chalmers was late charged and awarded a penalty when, had the referee had the presence of mind to use the advantage law, Wainwright would have scored a try. But as well as Scotland did in attack they, too, were vulnerable, particularly to the forceful charges of Gibbs and Bateman. Indeed, one of the delights of the contest was the play of Wales's centres and of Townsend for Scotland. With so much that occurs around the fringes it is a joy to watch the fine touches of genuine midfield players of their kind. They open up the prospect that anything is possible away from the pump and grind of the forwards.

There is too much of this from Wales. Each of the last four teams that Wales have played — New Zealand, Italy, England and now Scotland — have managed in turn to show with ease how they can create space on the widths of the pitch. Wales's attacks were invariably in crowded space, always seemingly tied down. Scotland's were out in the fresh air, players stretching their legs. This is a lesson that Wales have yet to learn. If they are to go places they will have to learn, and pretty quickly.



Howley stretches to half Bulloch, the Scotland hooker

France shown to be fallible by pluck of the Irish

France 18
Ireland 16

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN PARIS

IF, IN a month's time, France win a grand slam at Wembley against Wales, they will have cause to thank the Irish. To thank them for the abrupt reminder at the Stade de France on Saturday that rugby is played with heart and passion, as well as skill and speed, and that no opponent in the Five Nations Championship can ever be taken lightly.

Those who have been so dismissive of the championship this season may pause to reflect that Ireland, bottom of the heap, have lost by one point and two points in their two matches. How little is the difference between top and bottom: throw in Ireland's results in France at A and under-21 level (a 30-30 draw and a 36-28 defeat) and you have to ask if Irish rugby is quite as feeble as has been painted by its critics.

The paradox, of course, is that these are the same players who have all — with the obvious exception of Andy Ward — appeared for Brian Ashton's teams and many of them for Murray Kidd before him as the Ireland coach. Nothing else has changed within the Ireland hierarchy, so what magic did Warren Gatland bring with him from Galway that on Saturday his players came within seven minutes of an historic result, one which they would have thoroughly deserved?

As you would expect from a New Zealander, the objectives were clear and concise: to achieve self-respect and give the French no room. "We watched France's game in Scotland and felt that the Scottish wings did not get up quickly enough, so we worked on that all week," Gatland said. "A lot of the players had played French club sides in Europe this season and had done well against them — all players are the same. If you put them under pressure, they make mistakes."

The trick for Gatland now is to prepare his players to reach the same level in their remaining games, against Wales and England, rather than have Paris added to the list of great one-off Ireland performances. Yet even an unsentimental New Zealander will look yearningly at the video and ponder whether Paul Wallace should have been awarded a first-half try when Sadourny scarcely put any downward pressure on a ball in his own in-goal area, or whether France would have come back if Maggs had clung on to an inside pass from O'Shea with the defence all but beaten.

FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	3	0	0	93	49	6
England	2	1	0	1	77	50	2
Wales	2	1	0	1	45	73	2
Scotland	3	1	0	2	45	86	2
Ireland	2	0	0	2	32	36	0

PREVIOUS RESULTS: Feb 7: France 24 England 17; Ireland 16 Scotland 17. Feb 21: England 60 Wales 26; Scotland 16 France 51.
MATCHES TO COME: Mar 21: Ireland v Wales; Mar 22: Scotland v England, Apr 4: England v Ireland, Apr 5: Wales v France.

Gatland will also wonder whether he did not make a substitution too many. On a day of glorious all-round performances, Malcolm O'Kelly was unrivalled in the lineout, with Paddy Johns utterly secure at the front. Yet Gatland took Johns off with 15 minutes remaining, one of four forward replacements in an attempt to bring fresh legs to the fray; eight minutes later France scored the winning try from an Ireland throw ten metres from their own line.

The ball bobbled between Galwey and O'Kelly, the alert Raphael Ibañez was there to drive it on, all but three of his players piled into a driving maul. Ibañez claimed the try. Many would suggest that the France captain was fortunate to be on the pitch at that stage: he delivered a hefty punch to Keith Wood that went completely unseen.

Wood's play frequently invites retribution: he is not averse to going into tackles with a stiff forearm and here he clattered over a French body before meeting Ibañez's fist. He also suffered from eye-gouging, as did his fellow props, as French frustration came out in one of its regrettably traditional manners. There are very few angels among the coterie of international forwards but in Britain eyes are usually safe. Nor do we see players going for the private parts of opponents, as Fabien Pelous did to Wood.

The Ireland management expressed no intention of citing anyone, but this was a match for an independent commissioner to review at leisure and take action as he saw fit. As it was the weight of penalties ran 19-13 in Ireland's favour, Jim Fleming taking a stern line but not so much as to overwhelm a match of relatively few scrums.

"Everyone said that Ireland were the weakest team in the championship but we did not," Jean-Claude Skrela, the France coach, said. He admitted, though, that his players may have felt subconsciously that the task before them was relatively straightforward and the first minutes of the match suggested they were right before the full force of Ireland's tackling broke upon them.

Nevertheless, a turnover gave France the chance to use their wings before Lamaison's looped pass to Castaignède was plucked out of the air by Hickie, who spun and ran 55 metres for the try that gave Ireland their precious lead. When France did escape, invariably Sadourny was involved: the full back made the extra man to put Bernat-Salles clear for his try and the same combination was foiled by the touchline.

But McGuinness, chivvying and harrying, carried Ireland back, his break from a scrum fooling everyone save Elwood who went with him and, had one more green shirt been within range, the try might have come before Elwood veered to his right to find support. "We found the 'Paddy factor' again today," Elwood said. "We're desperately disappointed to have lost, but, let's face it, a week ago we'd have settled for a game like that."

MICHEL EULER



Bernat-Salles realises that pursuit is futile as Hickie approaches the line to score his try

SCORERS: France: Tries: Bernat-Salles (59min), Ibañez (73) Conversion: Lamaison. Penalty goals: Lamaison 2 (19, 40). Ireland: Try: Hickie (36). Conversion: Elwood. Penalty goals: Elwood 3 (27, 40, 51).
SCORING SEQUENCE (France first): 3-0, 3-3, 3-10, 3-13, 6-13 (half-time), 6-16, 13-16, 16-16.
FRANCE: J-L Sadourny (Colomiers); P Bernat-Salles (Pau), C Lamaison (Brive), S Glas (Bourgoin), X Garbajosa (Toulouse); T Castaignède (Castres), P Carbonneau (Brive); C Califano (Toulouse), R Ibañez (Dax, captain), F Tournaire (Toulouse; rep: C Soulette, Béziers, 66min), O Brouzet (Bègles-Bordeaux), F Pelous (Toulouse; rep: T Cléda, Pau, 72), M Lièvremont (Stade Français, rep: P Benetton, Agen, 55), O Magne (Brive), T Lièvremont (Perpignan).
IRELAND: C M P O'Shea (London Irish); R M Wallace (Saracens), R A J Henderson (Wasps), K M Maggs (Bristol), D A Hickie (St Mary's College); E P Elwood (Galwegians), C D McGuinness (St Mary's College); R Corrigan (Greystones; rep: N J Popplewell, Newcastle, 59), K G M Wood (Harlequins, captain; rep: R P Nesdale, Newcastle, 59), P S Wallace (Saracens, rep: P M Clohessy, Young Munster, 65), P S Johns (Saracens; rep: M J Galwey, Shannon, 65), M E O'Kelly (London Irish), D S Corkery (Bristol), A Ward (Ballynahinch), V C P Costello (St Mary's College)
Referee: J M Fleming (Scotland).

Kiss of life for tournament's abiding values

CHRISTOPHER IRVINE



At Stade de France

With what unseemly haste some have sought to bury the Five Nations Championship. Although the cold-hearted reality of Saturday afternoon was another tick in the long losing column for Ireland in the French capital, what gallantry and spirit lay behind that unflattering scoreline.

The visiting supporters were so braced for meltdown that it took 50 minutes before the strains of *Molly Malone* could be clearly heard — simply because they could not believe the evidence of their eyes.

This was supposed to be an occasion for New Age rugby to obliterate its Stone Age predecessor, yet Ireland simply refused to accept their part in the script and slowly the truth dawned as the Irish players thundered around the field: France were sleek, but France were also vulnerable.

"And they say pride and passion is going out in the new style of rugby," David Corkery, part of the back row which dogged every French step, said.

Ireland got in the faces of *Les Bleus*, even if they did not quite manage to rub their noses in the dirt, tackling with high-octane fervour in all areas of the pitch. Setting an inspiring example was Conor McGuinness, the scrum half, whose deadly cover defence was as much a feature of his game as his adventurous, sniping runs. Olivier Magne was thus made to look far less impressive than when strutting his stuff to such devastating effect against England and Scotland.

Having begun arrogantly, as if playing sevens, France were at odds with themselves for an embarrassingly long period. They did not regain their equilibrium until after a dozen blue shirts had manufactured the irresistible rolling maul that brought the winning score.

Waves of relief rippled around the mighty stadium as Raphael Ibañez rose from the heap, the ball raised above his head in triumph.

Jim Fleming, the Scottish referee, had no truck with the carefree style with which the New Zealand officials, Paddy O'Brien and Colin Hawke, operated at Murrayfield and Twickenham last month. Fleming's beady eye missed nothing so, rather than basketball, we were treated to a dramatic, physical confrontation.

Afterwards, Keith Wood, hunched and bearing the marks of battle, confessed that cuts and bruises were as nothing compared with the pain of defeat. "Paddy Johns said as we came off, 'Jesus, I think it's worse than being beaten by 40 points.' Losing doesn't get any easier, but at least there's something to build on," the captain said.

Ireland had been bombarded by goodwill before the game. Among the 2,000 messages of encouragement, which came from all parts of the world, was one from Brian Ashton, the coach whose resignation left Warren Gatland, his successor, with so little time to prepare the team.

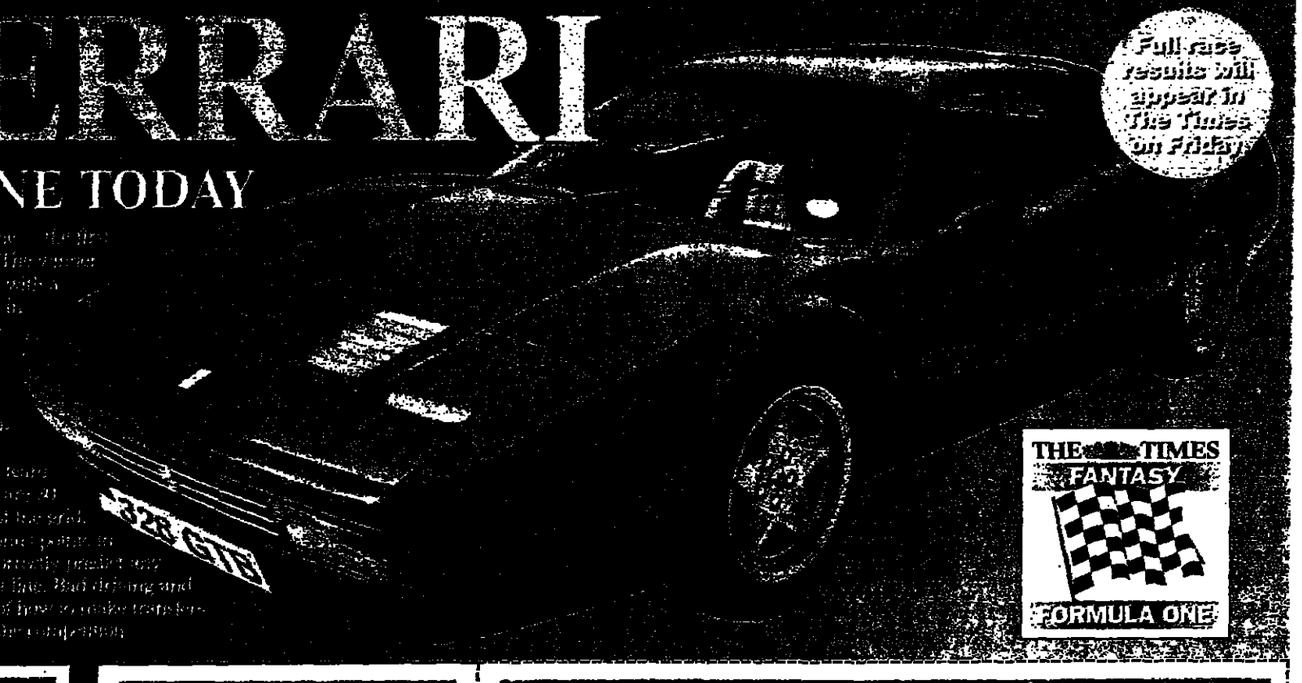
But it was the words contained in a taped message from a boy of 8 that had the most pronounced effect. "The kid was hurt playing for Belvedere and to hear him saying that he wanted to play for Ireland, and asking only that we give 100 per cent, moved us," McGuinness said. "Today was about regaining self-respect and honesty."

Ireland lost, but gave a boy lying injured in a Dublin hospital every reason to be proud of them. He had asked for nothing more. The Five Nations dead? Long live the Five Nations.

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08 Eddie Irvine
09 Mika Hakkinen
10 Jean Alesi
11 Rubens Barrichello

GROUP B
12 Alexander Wurz
13 Ralf Schumacher
14 Jarno Trulli
15 Johnny Herbert
16 Mika Salo
17 Pedro Diniz
18 Jan Magnussen
19 Toranosuke Takagi
20 Ricardo Rosset
21 Shinji Nakano
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CHANGING TIMES

Collision course approaches moment of impact

David Hands wonders whether rugby's leading clubs and the game's governing body can negotiate a way back from the brink

This will be a significant week in English rugby. It is the week in which those attempting to administer the game, both from the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the leading clubs, can show either that they have genuine leadership qualities — among them a gift for diplomacy and compromise that has not always been apparent — or a narrow-mindedness that will ultimately create lasting damage to the game's fabric.

This morning, the RFU hierarchy of Cliff Brittle, the union's management board chairman, Fran Cotton, his vice-chairman, and Clive Woodward, the England coach, will set out the ground upon which they have taken their stance. In the afternoon, Brittle is scheduled to meet Donald Kerr, chairman of the English First Division Clubs, to discuss the apparent impasse between people who should be forthright allies.

During the remainder of the week the 12 Allied Dunbar Premiership first division clubs will be talking through with their own players the reasons why there is a stand-off with the governing body that is far deeper than the ostensible cause — England's proposed tour to the southern hemisphere this summer. On Thursday, the RFU's management board is to meet, with an agenda including relationships with the clubs.

With so much talking due to take place, it is unlikely that irrevocable steps will be taken today that might lead to the expulsion of the leading clubs (and the fielding of an understrength side against Scotland on March 22), even though Woodward is said to have laid down an ultimatum that requires players to state immediately whether they are available for the seven-match tour to Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, which the clubs have asked him to abandon.

The ground occupied by the clubs does not appear strong, in strict legal terms. The core issue is control of the players, all of whom seek to represent their country, and any club contract must have a release clause for international rugby if it is to comply with International Rugby Board requirements. If the clubs are found to be in breach of those requirements, they risk expulsion.

They, for their part, will argue that the union is acting unreasonably by inviting players to take part in so demanding a tour, knowing the domestic schedule they are facing and the hard grind that awaits in 1999. The confusion surrounding the entire situation, so far as the general public is concerned, could be seen at Vicarage Road yesterday, when cries of "Judas" greeted Lawrence Dallaglio from some sections of the crowd as he led Wasps against Saracens.

As the England captain, Dallaglio is perceived to be the principal target for the RFU; where he goes, it is argued, others will follow, though the player himself denies any approach and is, in any case, tied to Wasps until 1999. Sources within the clubs suggest that, if any player commits himself on a long-term basis to the RFU, his club contract will be cancelled and he will find himself in a rugby limbo.

But this assumes no common ground being found that will bring clubs and union back to the debating chamber. "The key issue for the clubs is that the RFU is trying to sign players direct, and that would put the clubs up out of business," Kerr said yesterday. The clubs contend that any player-release clause has to be activated in a responsible manner and that the RFU is not doing so.

That being the case, it seems curious that the issue has only surfaced now, given that the nature of the summer tour has been known for most of this season. Contrary to what some union officials suppose, the announcement by Keith Barwell, the Northampton chairman, a week ago that he would withhold his players from the tour was not part of a pre-planned strategy and it may prove significant that, while all 12 clubs support Barwell's stand, no other has said that it will definitely do the same.

There is a way forward here, should Woodward choose to offer it: he recognises that players are tired and that certain individuals need to rest this summer. He can talk to the clubs, in the way he did when he became England coach five months ago, and work out which individuals — Martin Johnson and Jason Leonard spring to mind — have the greatest need to rest without compromising the strength of his tour party.

But that would only solve one problem. It will do nothing to erase the distrust felt by both sides and which, for the clubs, can only be minimised if Cotton shows himself prepared to remove the proposals from his vision of the playing future that would dilute the club structure.

They have no objection to the "Club England" element in his proposals but they believe that it should be based on club rugby in England as it is now, rather than as Cotton would like it. That shift in emphasis, however, may not be acceptable and, in that event, the consequences can only be imagined.

Saracens prosper but image suffers

Saracens 33
Wasps 27

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

THE sour feeling that characterises England's rugby politics is spilling over onto the pitch. At Leicester on Saturday and yesterday at Vicarage Road, players all too frequently allowed emotions to get the better of them and that at a time when the clubs are desperate to present the best possible image to a new public, more than 12,000 of whom came to Watford.

At least Saracens were able to accentuate the positive. Though they conceded 20 points in the second quarter, their disciplined approach allowed them to win more emphatically than the scoreline suggests against the champions. They cemented their lead at the top of the Allied Dunbar Premiership and those are points in the bag. Newcastle have three games in hand, but must make up that leeway at a rush.

It is a reflection on the unsatisfactory structure that Newcastle are only halfway through their Premiership programme in March. "Newcastle are a formidable side, Bath are playing very good rugby and there's still a long way to go," Francois Pienaar, the Saracens coach, said, noting that his club's season could be effectively decided within four days — they play Newcastle on March 25 and Northampton in the Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final on March 28.

He is right to be cautious: without six internationals (Paul Wallace, the Ireland prop, returned from Paris to join the replacements' bench and played the final 20 minutes), even the depth of Saracens' resources are being tested and Pienaar was delighted to see some of his home-grown youngsters imposing themselves.

Ben Sturnham led the way from blind-side flanker. With Richard Hill out of action for six months after Saturday's operation on a bulging disc in his back, he has an opportunity to build a reputation alongside Pienaar and Tony Diprose. He has both size (6ft 5in) and speed which twice Wasps could not contain and which gave him the chance to make up for the deliberate knock-on which led to Wasps' penalty try.

It was a curiously fluctuating match, which Wasps began with considerable naivety. That may have contributed to Saracens feeling the game was there for the taking as they cantered to a 13-0 lead in almost as many minutes. Olsen, the replacement for Kyran Bracken, nipped through a hole after Sampson, running out of defence, left himself desperately exposed.

DAVID ROGERS/ALLSPORT



Weedon, right, and Scrase struggle to contain Grau, of Saracens, during a bad-tempered contest yesterday

Yet Lynagh, of all people, assisted Wasps back into the match. His dropped ball was seized by Greenstock, the support poured in and though Rees was stopped ten metres out, a 4-2 overlap remained which was only stopped by Sturnham's "professional foul". Rees levelled matters with his second penalty goal and the Canadian sent Sampson to the posts after Greenstock and Green had made much of the running.

Though Shaw's expertise gave Wasps the edge at the lineout, Saracens reasserted themselves in the loose. They twice established lineouts on the Wasps line from penalty awards: the first time Copsey was held and Dallaglio fell offside, the second time John Pearson's patience, already tested midway through the first half after some fractious play, ran out and he gave Saracens a penalty try.

There was greater satisfaction to be derived from Singer's try. Sturnham drove into midfield, Ravenscroft and Daniel working the right wing clear and Lynagh landing the conversion from the touchline. Thereafter the game degenerated into a series of confrontations and replacements; it was seven minutes into injury-time before Greenstock finally broke the persevering defence.

SCORERS: Saracens: Tries: Olsen (11min), penalty try (58), Singer (61). Conversions: Lynagh 3. Penalty goals: Lynagh 4 (5, 16, 66, 82). Wasps: Tries: penalty try (29), Sampson (34), Greenstock (67). Conversions: Rees 3. Penalty goals: Rees 2 (22, 31).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Saracens first): 3-0, 10-0, 13-0, 13-9, 13-10, 13-13, 13-20 (half-time), 20-20, 27-20, 30-20, 33-20, 33-27

SARACENS: G Johnson; M Singer, R Constable, S Ravenscroft, B Daniel (rep: D Thompson, 63min); M Lynagh, M Olsen; B Reidy (rep: P Wallace, 66), G Chuter (rep: G Botterman, 78), R Grau, D Grewcock, A Copsey, B Sturnham, F Pienaar, A Diprose.

WASPS: P Sampson; S Roiser, N Greenstock, L Scrase, K Logan; G Rees; A Gomersall (rep: M Wood, 75); D Molloy (rep: A Black, 75), S Mitchell (rep: J Leota, 69), W Green, M Weedon (rep: A Read, 75), S Shaw, L Dallaglio, M White (rep: J Ions, 50-58, 69), P Scrivener.

Referee: J Pearson (Durham)

Catt carried off as Bath weather Bristol storm

Bristol 16
Bath 22

By Michael Aylwin

IT WAS almost the perfect start for Darryl Jones and Dave Egerton. In their first game in charge of Bristol, after the departure of Alan Davies last weekend, the home side came close to beating their great West Country rivals. But Bath weathered a spirited fightback in the second half and Bristol are still searching for a first league victory over their neighbours.

Bath's recent scoring spree — they have amassed 129 points in three games since winning the Heineken Cup — was restricted yesterday by a spirited performance from their hosts, who might well have surrendered after Bath opened up a 15-point lead just after half-time.

Steve Pearce, the Bristol No 8, was injured when he drove off the base of a scrum after ten minutes and Mike Catt was taken out by Eben Rollitt towards the end of the first half, with a recklessly late and high tackle. Rollitt received a yellow card and was lucky to stay on the field; Catt, like Pearce before him, had to leave, concussed, on a stretcher. Both players will be out for at least three weeks.

The penalty that followed Catt's departure at least allowed Jon Callard to kick Bath into a ten-point lead, which they took into the break, having countered Bristol's opening try with two of their own. Paul Burke charged down a clearance by Catt to go over unopposed, but Bath's greater sharpness and adventure secured them two tries, through Victor Ubogu and Andy Nicol.

Five minutes into the second half, Callard sent Matt Perry sprinting through a gaping hole in the Bristol defence for the third Bath try, after Méndez had maintained the momentum established by a break by Guscott from his own half. It looked bleak for Bristol at that point, but they proceeded to dominate the lineout and deny Bath the chance to build upon the dynamism they had displayed in the first half.

Burke orchestrated the Bristol revival and his three penalty goals brought them to within six points of their visitors. The guile that Bristol needed was missing, however, and in their furious efforts to register the crucial try, they let Bath escape, particularly when they failed to control the ball at the base of a five-yard scrum in the dying seconds.

Bristol will wonder what they have to do to get their season on track. Bath seem to know, the answer and they wait for any slip-ups from the Premiership leaders.

Results and tables 42

SCORERS: Bristol: Try: Burke (20min) Conversion: Burke. Penalty goals: Burke 3 (53, 65, 70). Bath: Tries: Ubogu (24), Nicol (31), Perry (45). Conversions: Callard 2. Penalty goal: Callard (40).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Bristol first): 7-0, 7-7, 7-14, 7-17 (half-time), 7-22, 10-22, 13-22, 16-22

BRISTOL: J Lewsey; K Chesney, P Hull, S Martin, D Yapp; P Burke, G Baber; M Morgan (rep: A Poole, 79min), F Landreau, K Pullman, C Eagle, T Devergie, E Rollit, J Brownrigg, S Pearce (rep: C Moore, 10; rep: P Adams, 68).

BATH: J Callard; M Keyson, M Perry, J Guscott, A Adebayo; M Catt (rep: R Butland, 37), A Nicol; V Ubogu, F Méndez (rep: A Long, 62), J Mallett (rep: C Horsman, 62), M Haag, D Jones, R Earnshaw, R Bryan, E Peters.

Referee: D Chapman (Yorkshire).

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

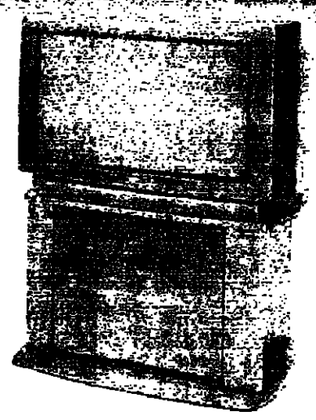
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The winner of last week's World Cup Quiz is Ms Alison Ritchie of Morayshire, Scotland.

The answers were: 1. Tunisia, 2. Jamaica and 3. North Korea. Every week we will be posing three questions to test your knowledge of the World Cup.



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HOW TO ENTER
Simply call our competition hotline 0891 405098 (ex UK +44 990 100 326) with your answers to these three questions for your chance to win this week's prize. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Normal TNL competition rules apply.

1. Which player claimed it was the "Hand of God" which helped to knock England out of the 1986 quarter-finals?
a) Dan Petrescu b) Karl-Heinz Rumenigge c) Diego Maradona

2. Who did England beat in the 1966 World Cup semi-finals?
a) Iran b) Portugal c) United States

3. Which country, in 1994, became the first to win the World Cup on a penalty shoot-out?
a) Brazil b) Scotland c) England

In association with JVC

0891 calls cost 50p per minute. 0990 calls cost 58p per minute. Lines open until midnight, Wednesday March 11, 1998.

CHANGING TIMES

Corry sent off as derby turns into brawl

Leicester 15
Northampton 15

By Michael Aylwin

THERE is a lot of fighting in the game of rugby at the moment. Off the field, the unseemly brawl between the clubs and the Rugby Football Union has been well documented, and on Saturday, in front of a crowd of 16,000, Leicester and Northampton gave their best shots to capture the general mood of pugilism.

Martin Johnson's uncompromising fist was noticeably prominent in the opening minutes, but thereafter you could take your pick of offending meat hooks. The referee, Edward Morrison, duly took his in the 25th minute, when Martin Corry's ill-discipline caught his eye, figuratively speaking, and the Leicester back-row forward became the second player to be sent off in the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division this season. That, along with two earlier yellow cards for the warring hookers, Cockerill and Johnson, seemed to defuse the situation, however arbitrarily.

Corry was unfortunate to carry the can, but his sending-off suitably galvanised the Leicester pack, whose numerical deficiency was only really exposed in the scrum.

In the tightest of derbies, Leicester took a slender lead into the half-time break. At 6-3 down, and the whistle a couple of minutes away, Neil Back received the ball from a ruck and sensed that nothing was on, a situation that was thematic throughout the game. He thus sent a beautifully judged chip to within inches of the Northampton corner flag. From the resulting lineout, Chandler was bundled into touch by the Leicester forwards, who then executed a textbook lineout and drive themselves, allowing Back to complete the job by grounding the ball.

After the fireworks of the first half, the second was a relatively tame affair until a spectacular injury-time climax. Lending their weight to the views of Keith Barwell, their owner, surrounding overworked players, Northampton looked slightly jaded as their heroics against Newcastle the previous week started to tell, and they struggled to take advantage of their extra player. They did, however, rouse themselves manfully to provide the platform for a match-levelling dropped goal from Paul Grayson in the fifth and final minute of injury time, seconds after Leicester had taken the lead.

An overwhelming penalty count against Leicester in the second half had helped Grayson to kick Northampton back into a 12-8 lead with two late penalties. Leicester, however, registered a scintillating try in the third minute of injury time, seemingly to secure the win. From a scrum under the shadow of the Northampton posts, Stransky looped round Greenwood and fed Lloyd, who seared into the line from the blind-side wing. After his mini-break, the ball was transferred swiftly to Joiner, who squeezed into the corner.



Corry: carried the can

Stransky's touchline conversion gave Leicester a three-point lead and neatly set the stage for Grayson to level the match from 35 yards out with the last kick of the game.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Back (38min), Joiner (80). Conversion: Stransky. Penalty goal: Stransky (18). Northampton: Penalty goals: Grayson 4 (14, 26, 67, 76). Dropped goal: Grayson (80).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Leicester first): 0-3, 3-3, 3-6, 8-6 (half-time), 8-8, 8-12, 15-12, 15-15

LEICESTER: M Horak; C Joiner (rep: J Hamilton, 80min), W Greenwood, S Potter, L Lloyd; J Stransky, A Hadley; G Rowntree (rep: P Freshwater, 70), R Cockerill (rep: D West, 70), D Garforth, M Johnson, M Poole, P Gustard, N Back (rep: L Moody, 80), M Corry.

NORTHAMPTON: I Hunter; J Sleightholme, A Northey, M Allen, H Thomas-Scott; P Grayson, M Dawson; G Pagel, C Johnson, M Hynes, J Phillips, J Chandler, T Rodber, D MacKinnon, G Seely.

Referee: E Morrison (Bristol).

Sheasby returns to galvanise Harlequins

Harlequins 41
Richmond 12

By Nicolas Andrews

TWO men made the difference for Harlequins on Saturday and a third is now charged with the task of turning the perennial underachievers of English rugby into a force for next season.

Zinzan Brooke, the former All Black, flew in from New Zealand on Friday and took his place in the dug-out for this Allied Dunbar Premiership first division match 24 hours later. His contract with the New Zealand RFU prevents him from playing until August but the Harlequins forwards will feel his considerable presence on the training ground long before then.

When he does take the field, Brooke should link up with Chris Sheasby and Laurent Cabannes in a potentially formidable Harlequins back row. After a season and a half in the black of Wasps, Sheasby was back in the famous multi-coloured shirt for the first time on Saturday. His impact was immediate and impressive.

A pack that had looked lost and lacklustre a week earlier at Bath found direction and dynamism from the start against Richmond, even in the absence of Keith Wood and Gareth Llewellyn. Sheasby put himself about the Stoop Memorial Ground as though an England place were at stake and, if other back-row forwards are unavailable to tour this summer, they need not be too badly missed.

The other decisive feature in a rejuvenated Harlequins side was the return of Thierry Lacroix after a hamstring injury. The fly half and captain could do no wrong and struck up an instinctive understanding with Sheasby that brought an emphatic end to the club's longest league losing sequence.

These teams started the game with identical playing records and having scored the same number of points, but the gulf between them in the first half could scarcely have been greater. Richmond have been hit hard by injury and they badly missed their Welshmen — Allan Bateman, Scott Quinnell, Andy Moore and Barry Williams. The latter two came on after half-time, having played in the A international on Friday night, but by then the damage had been done.

Harlequins scored 31 points without reply in that first period, O'Leary getting two tries, Davison and Lacroix one each. The Frenchman converted the lot and also kicked a penalty. "We did win the second half, which was something," John Kingston, the Richmond director of rugby, said wryly afterwards.

Kingston continued: "We have not quite achieved what was available to us this season. We have shown we can match and beat the best on our day, but we have got to get a ruthless streak.

"If we are to move on and become a force, we have to utilise these last eight games of the season. We have to start preparing to be more competitive next year."

The message from the Harlequins camp is exactly the same and, if anyone can see that they do, surely Zinzan can.

SCORERS: Harlequins: Tries: O'Leary 2 (9, 40), Davison (13), Lacroix (20), Mensah (55). Conversions: Lacroix 5. Penalty goals: Lacroix 2 (21, 70). Richmond: Tries: Hutton (51), A Davies (58). Conversion: A Davies.

SCORING SEQUENCE (Harlequins first): 7-0, 14-0, 17-0, 24-0, 31-0 (half-time), 31-5, 31-12, 38-12, 41-12.

HARLEQUINS: S Sheasby; D O'Leary (rep: H Harries, 72min), J Keyter (rep: T Tolley, 41), P Mensah, D Luger; T Lacroix, N Walshe; J Leonard, T Billups, A Yates, W Davison, L Gross, A Lasch, L Cabannes, C Sheasby.

RICHMOND: M Pini; J Fallon, J Wright, M Deane, D Chapman; A Davies, B Harvey (rep: A Moore, 41); D McFarland, A Cuthbert (rep: B Williams, 56), J Davies (rep: D Crompton, 56), A Codling (rep: C Quinnell, 44), C Gillies, R Martin, B Clarke, R Hutton.

Referee: A Spreadbury (Somerset).

GOLF: TWO TITLES IN ONE DAY FOR SCOTTISH PLAYER HUNGRY FOR SUCCESS ON EUROPEAN TOUR

Coltart achieves double distinction

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN DOHA, QATAR

ANDREW COLTART will not forget Sunday, March 8 for a long time. His fellow Scot, David Coulthard, may have surrendered the Australian Grand Prix, but Coltart more than compensated by winning two titles on two continents on the same day.

When Coltart, 27, arrived at the whitewashed clubhouse of the Doha Golf Club here yesterday morning, he learnt that he had won the Australian order of merit, thanks to winning the Australian PGA last November and other good performances, which guarantees him a place in the field for the Open.

When he returned to the clubhouse again, much later in the day, it was to be crowned as the winner of the inaugural Qatar Masters. He finished 18 under par to win by two strokes from Andrew Sherborne, the leader after three rounds, and Patrick Sjoland, a self-effacing Swede.

Sherborne, a West Countryman with a burr as thick as a Somerset mist, seemed overshadowed by his partner. He fiddled a lot at the address, was consistently outdriven, even when Coltart used a three-wood to his driver as at the 12th, and he rarely hit the ball well or accurately enough to set up birdie chances. He managed only one all day. "I played like a pig," Sherborne said crisply. "I can't complain. I wish I had played better but Andrew was just great."

Sjoland's consolation was a handsome cheque for £52,000, the biggest of his career so far, a cuddle from his girlfriend, Ulrika, who caddied for him, and the knowledge that he had completed 72 holes without three-putting on some of the grainiest and most difficult to read greens imaginable.

Had Sjoland birdied the 16th and / or the 18th, he would have threatened Coltart, who was in the match immediately behind, but he failed to do so.

Coltart put in a blazing final round of 67 — only three men bettered this with 66s — and it was his iron determination and the near-faultless quality of his play that made his win look so convincing. From the 10th to the 18th, he hardly made a mistake, hitting the ball enviably sweetly. His conversation, in a gravelly, Sean Connery sort of voice, is no-nonsense, yesterday his golf was, too.

This success lifted a weight off Coltart's shoulders. Though he has won twice in Australia — the 1994 Australian PGA and the same event last year — and was the 1994 Scottish PGA champion, he had not won on the European Tour. It was a bizarre statistic because he was easily good enough to have done so and it was beginning to irritate him. "It is nice to knock this one on the head," he said. "Someone in the golfing magazines would predict — in 1995, 1996, 1997 — that this would be the year in which Andrew Coltart won his first tournament and each year I would not do it. It is nice to have done it at last."

Ian Woosnam, five strokes behind at the start of the day, and Coltart, two behind, were the men Sherborne had to fear. Woosnam failed to make the sort of start that he needed to get into a challenging position. He took 35 to the turn and could squeeze only one more birdie from the course. This on a day when the wind was nothing like as strong as on the first day.

It was at the 10th, a par five, that Coltart took a firm grip on a distinctive trophy, which is a pearl inside an oyster shell in honour of Qatar's pearl fishermen who still ply their trade hereabouts.

He hit a good enough drive to be able to go for the green with his second and the speed with which he pulled out his three-wood and hit the ball onto the back of the elevated, shallow green indicated that here was a young man in almost complete control of his game. When he chipped and holed the putt for his fourth birdie of the day, he led by two strokes.

There was always the possibility that he might slip up but despite the relative calm, officials had placed the tees at some holes, such as the 13th, in easy positions. Whereas early in the week this short hole across a small lake had presented a real challenge, requiring a well-struck long iron when played into the wind, yesterday it was no more than an easy flick with a mid-iron. Why, one wonders, should life be made so easy for these professionals?

For much of last year, Coltart tended to berate himself for what he perceived to be his weaknesses. His hard work was not yielding a reward. It took some hard-talking by Emma, his girlfriend, and John Allsop, the sports psychologist, to persuade him that it would all come right sooner or later.

Now it has. Beneath a bright Arabian sun, Coltart took an important step forward.

Final scores, page 42

ANDREW REDINGTON / ALLSPORT



Showing no sign of nerves, despite having an important victory nearly in his grasp, Coltart watches his ball sail towards the fairway at the 16th

EQUESTRIANISM

Romp survives tough test to reach first final

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN PARIS

BERT ROMP, of Holland, made good his claim for a place at the Volvo World Cup final in Helsinki next month when he won his second qualifying round of the season here yesterday on his grey stallion, Burg's Mr Blue. The victory, over one of the most demanding courses on the circuit, follows his success in the Berlin qualifier last November and has lifted Romp to joint first place in the Western European League.

Geoff Billington, whose hopes of a first win in a qualifier were raised when he saw the big course ("The bigger the better for my horse," he said) had to settle for third place behind Lars Nieberg, of Germany, the 1996 Olympic team gold medal-winner, on For Pleasure when It's Otto faulted at the last fence.

"I blame myself for last week but today it was his fault," Billington said afterwards in a reference to the Bologna qualifier, where he also faulted at the last fence in the jump-off. Billington neatly overlooked It's Otto's generosity to his rider in the opening round yesterday when — also at the last — he got Billington out of trouble with an agile cat leap. Now lying in sixth place in the league, Billington is assured of his place at the final.

John Whitaker, who had been hoping for a good placing to secure his ticket to Helsinki, finished in joint seventeenth place after Virtual Village Heyman, on which he was runner-up in Bologna, faulted at fence No 8, a narrow upright off a corner, and No 11a, the first part of the double. Nick Skelton, the only other Briton due to compete, said the course was "stupidly big" and withdrew Giselle, his inexperienced eight-year-old.

At first it seemed as though Skelton's description of Serge Houtmann's 13-fence course was not inaccurate. None of the first 16 riders achieved clear rounds. Several of them — including Trevor Coyle, of Ireland, on the usually reliable Cruising — retired after several mistakes. But Houtmann breathed a sigh of relief in the second half — which included most of the top partnerships — when six were faultless. It might have been seven had Ludger Beerbaum, of Germany, the European champion, not had an unlucky four faults at the last fence on Sprehe Ratina when the back pole fell long after he had jumped it.

In the jump-off, Romp — who, despite an illustrious career that includes a team gold medal at the 1992 Olympic Games, has never qualified for a World Cup final before — set a formidable standard. Turning almost as he landed over fence No 3 on his obliging ten-year-old stallion, he completed the twisty, six-fence course clear in 38.78sec. Billington then collected his four faults — and in a slower time. Nieberg finished a fraction of a second behind Romp.



Skelton: withdrew horse

When the remaining three riders — Philippe Leoni and Patrice Delaveau, of France, and Jan Tops, of Holland, all faulted — the popular Romp let out a whoop of joy.

RESULTS: Paris Volvo World Cup qualifier: 1, Burg's Mr Blue (B Romp, Holl) 0 in 38.78; 2, For Pleasure (L Nieberg, Ger) 0 in 39.14; 3, Virtual Village It's Otto (G Billington, GB) 4 in 40.48. Other British placings: equal 17, Virtual Village Heyman (J Whitaker) 8. Western European League positions (for the Volvo World Cup): equal 1, B Romp (Holl) and L Nieberg (Ger) 68pts; 3 equal, E van der Vleuten (Holl) and W Melliger (Switz) 62; 5, J Tops (Holl) 55; 6, G Billington (GB) 52. Other British placings: 20 equal, R Smith 35; 30, J Whitaker 27; 32 equal, M Whitaker 24. Prix BCM: 1, Champion du Lys (L Beerbaum, Ger) 42.20; 2, ET (H Simon, Austria) 43.38; 3, Virtual Village Diamond Cliff (J Whitaker, GB) 43.75.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Two declarers, in different matches in last year's Gold Cup semi-finals, found an extra chance which came off when the defence was not as accurate as it might have been.

Dealer East — Game all — IMPs

	♠QJ7543 ♥J52 ♦Q10 ♣J2	
♠— ♥Q10983 ♦AJ43 ♣A764		♠1098 ♥K76 ♦952 ♣Q953
	♠AK62 ♥A4 ♦K876 ♣K108	

S	W	N	E
—	—	—	Pass
1S	Double	4S	All Pass

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: ten of hearts

The bidding was the same at three of the four tables (at the fourth North-South stopped short of game) and at each table West led the ten of hearts. Of course, as the cards lie declarer can succeed in a number of ways. He could run the jack of clubs, which works well as East has the queen. He could play a diamond to the ten, which is successful because West has the jack. However, these cards could easily be badly placed and the expert likes to make his contract whatever the lie of the opposing cards.

The declarers all started by ducking the heart lead, important in order to keep East off play, and they won the heart continuation. One then simply drew trumps and guessed clubs correctly. The other two drew just ace and queen of trumps, ruffed a heart, played a diamond to dummy's queen and ran the ten of diamonds. As the cards lay West won his jack and was endplayed. In practice both Wests cashed their ace of clubs and declarer soon claimed his contract.

What the Wests should have done was play a fourth heart. If declarer now makes the mistake of discarding a club from the dummy while he ruffs in hand, East will discard his last diamond. Declarer cannot now get to dummy to draw trumps without East's ten of spades being promoted. Of course, declarer can recover by ruffing the fourth heart in dummy, drawing East's last trump, crossing to dummy with a diamond ruff and playing a club, reducing himself to the same guess he started with.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Oxford win

Oxford University won by 5 points to 3 in the annual Varsity match held over the weekend at the Royal Automobile Club, London. At one point it appeared that honours might end even, but on top board for Oxford, grandmaster Dharshan Kumaran recovered well to score an incisive win.

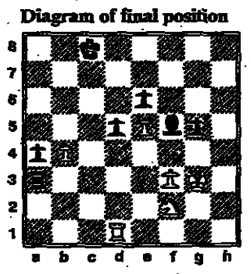
White: Mark Ferguson
Black: Dharshan Kumaran
Varsity match 1998

Caro-Kann Defence

1	e4	c6
2	d4	d5
3	e5	c5
4	dxc5	e6
5	Be3	Nh6
6	c3	Nc6
7	Bb5	Bd7
8	Bxc6	Bxc6
9	Nf3	Nf5
10	Bd4	a5
11	0-0	a4
12	Nbd2	g5
13	g4	Nxd4
14	cxd4	h5
15	h3	hxg4
16	hxg4	Qc7
17	Kg2	0-0-0
18	b4	f5
19	Rh1	Be7
20	Qe2	fxg4
21	Nh2	Rh4
22	Nxg4	Bb5
23	Qd1	Rf8
24	f3	Bd8
25	Nf1	Qf7
26	Nfh2	Qf4
27	a3	Rdh8
28	Qg1	Bd3
29	Qf2	Bf5
30	Qg3	Qxd4
31	Rad1	Qb2+
32	Qf2	Qxd2+
33	Nxd2	Rc4
34	Nhg4	Rxh1
35	Rxh1	Rc3
36	Ra1	b6
37	cxb6	Bxb6
38	Kg3	Bd4
39	Rd1	Bb6
40	Ra1	Bd4
41	Rd1	Bxf2+
42	Nxf2	Rxa3

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Linares update

Grandmaster Alexei Shirov remains in the lead in Linares with a score of 6½ points from 10, ahead of Anand, on six, and Kasparov and Kramnik, both on 5½.

White: Vassily Ivanchuk
Black: Viswanathan Anand
Linares 1998

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	Nc6
6	Bg5	e6
7	Qd2	Be7
8	0-0-0	0-0
9	f3	Nxd4
10	Qxd4	a6
11	h4	b5
12	Kb1	Qc7
13	h5	h6
14	Bh4	Bb7
15	Ne2	Rac8
16	Qd2	Rfd8
17	Re1	e5
18	Bxf6	Bxf6
19	Nc3	Bg5
20	Qd1	Qa5
21	Nd5	Bxd5
22	exd5	Rxc2
23	Kxc2	Qxa2
24	f4	Rc8+
25	Kd2	Bd4+
26	Ke2	Qxb2+
27	Kf3	Rc1

White resigns

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD WATCH

By Philip Howard

CRYPTOCHROMISM
a. Hardwearing chrome paint
b. Gene of "missing link"
c. A camouflage

FEBRIFUGE
a. To be born and die in February
b. A fever reliever
c. Instrument for measuring lung capacity

MUNG
a. To veto a decision
b. A fool or idiot
c. To mix or knead

PHYSIOCRAT
a. A land owner
b. Cartesian dualist
c. Superior basal fitness

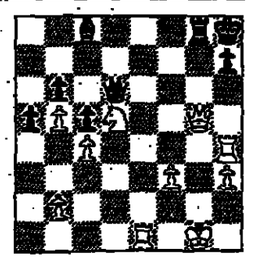
Answers on page 47

CHESS

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Hertneck — Hackbarth, Austria, 1997. Although White is a rook ahead, the pin of his queen against his king seems certain to regain Black some of his lost material. How did White refute this assessment?

Solution on page 47



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RUGBY LEAGUE

Hall's burst inspires Rovers to victory

BY PETER WILSON

TWO of the household rugby league names left behind by the Superleague revolution — Rochdale Hornets and Featherstone Rovers — showed that there is still life outside the big-money brackets yesterday.

Although they lack the crowds and the glamour, there was no shortage of enthusiasm as Featherstone snapped back to steal a 34-24 victory in the first division game at Spotland.

A late burst by Carl Hall, the centre, who has returned after his release as part of Moseley rugby union club's staff-cutting exercise, turned the game the way of the Yorkshiremen after Hornets had looked to be well set for a deserved victory.

Danny Baker, the Featherstone second-row forward, was able to snap up the try that swung the game after a splendid break by Hall.

"Hall caused us problems all afternoon," Shane Tupaea, the Rochdale coach, said. "Tallins kicked well for them and they scored two tries from his high bombs, while we made too many basic handling errors."

A see-saw match provided plenty of entertainment for a sparse but appreciative crowd. Richard Pachniuk opened the scoring for Rochdale after five minutes. The lead was short-lived, lasting only until Steve Collins scored for Featherstone and Ty Tallins added the goal.

A try from Paddy Handley gave Featherstone the lead for the first time but Rochdale, inspired by Willie Swann, the former Warrington half back, regained control with tries from Bob Lowe and Adam Maher — the first of two from the second-row forward.

But just as Rochdale threatened to gain control, Gavin Swinson crossed for Featherstone's third try to level the score.

With Darren Appleby, of Rochdale, in the sin-bin, Collins scored Featherstone's fourth and they stole away in the closing minutes with late tries from Baker and Craig Horne.

A 70-yard try from Craig Rika saw Wakefield Trinity to safety after a spirited challenge from Leigh, the bottom club. Leigh had rallied to within two points with 12 minutes to go before Rika struck with his second try and Sonny Whakeru also scored twice as Trinity won 32-20.

Widnes, one of the clubs with Superleague aspirations and a fine history, had to come from behind to see off Hunslet 32-26.

Hull Kingston Rovers kept their place at the top of the first division with a 24-14 victory away to Whitehaven.

John McCracken scored two tries as the Humberside club maintained their 100 per cent record this season. Graham Lewthwaite, of Whitehaven, also scored a brace of tries.

Hull, level at 10-10 at the break, finished the game with five tries in all, Mike Dixon, Stanley Gene and Paul Fletcher scoring the others.

Jeremy Whittle on an American cyclist's remarkable recovery from cancer

Armstrong glad to be alive for Race to the Sun

Lance Armstrong's remarkable comeback from cancer gathered pace yesterday in the Parisian suburbs as the former world champion and Tour de France stage winner squared up to the challenge of this week's Paris-Nice race, his first big European event for 18 months.

The 26-year-old American made his first tentative return to the European professional scene in February at the Ruta del Sol stage race in Andalucia. Armstrong acquitted himself well enough but it is this week's "Race to the Sun", which began with a 10km time-trial yesterday, that is expected to draw his real competitive fire and to test fully the extent of his recovery from testicular, abdominal and brain cancer.

Armstrong's irresistible recovery from the disease is fast developing into the most magnetic tale and his return to the international elite is likely to be the dominating spectacle of this season's opening races.

Yet even Armstrong's physical resilience and resolute character have been profoundly tested by the experience, at 24, of fighting off the cancer that threatened his life.

In the autumn of 1996, soon after returning to his home in Austin, Texas, he was operated on for testicular cancer. "But tests showed that the disease was far more advanced than they initially thought," he said.

Further scans revealed that the cancer had spread to his lungs and to his brain. "When we got news of the brain problem, I really thought it couldn't get any worse. It was very aggressive and fast-growing cancer that travelled in the blood, so it could have gone anywhere it wanted to."

Only two months earlier, Armstrong had returned to America for the Atlanta Olympics after competing at the Tour de France. In World Cup races that autumn, he had come close to victories in the Leeds Classic and the Championship of Zurich and had signed a lucrative contract with a leading sponsor that made him one of cycling's highest earners.

"The doctors didn't understand how I'd been so competitive," he said. "They'd seen young men with similar lung lesions who couldn't even walk across the room."

Emergency brain surgery caused temporary blindness and left him with two deep scars on the crown of his head. Soon afterwards, an intensive and lengthy course of chemotherapy left him vomiting and exhausted for weeks on end. His French sponsors, fearing the worst, quickly took the opportunity to renegotiate his contract to the lowest possible value. Yet by the following spring he had resumed light training and was even making plans to return to European competition later in the year. "But my doctors weren't keen on the idea," he said. "They felt I needed a year to recover from the disease."

> "The doctors had seen young men with similar lesions who couldn't walk across the room"

By the summer of 1997 he had been given a clean bill of health by his specialists, but Armstrong soon discovered that he was regarded as a high-risk investment by the cautious European scene.

"The attitude of my sponsor at the time was 'no thanks — he's finished'," he remembers with some rankle. "So we decided to look for another team, but for every 20 calls we made perhaps three were returned."

Finally, the American sponsor, US Postal, stepped in to rescue him from anonymity and offer him a platform for his comeback and for his efforts to inspire other cancer sufferers.

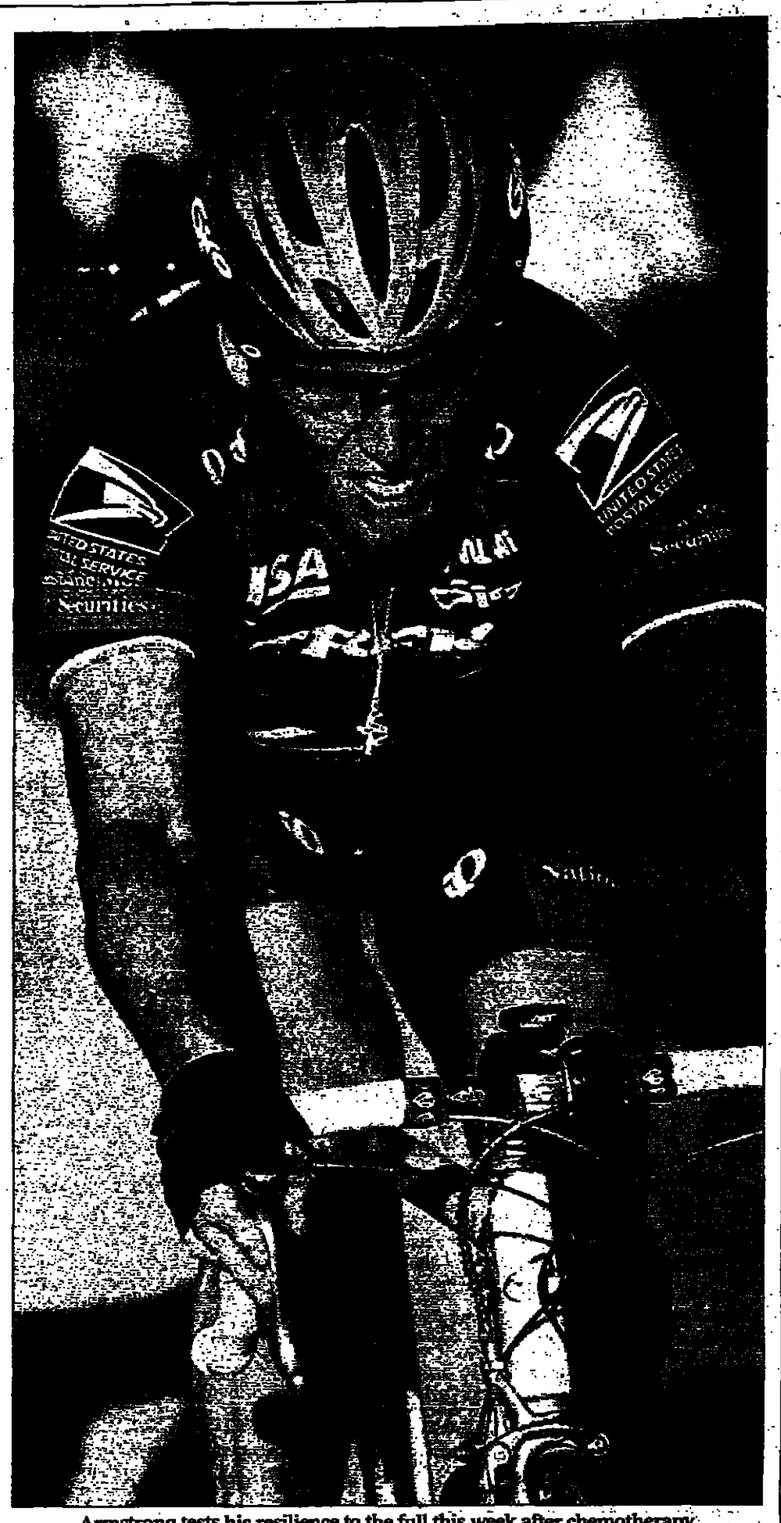
"I'm a guinea pig for the whole cancer community," Armstrong said, "because the image of chemotherapy is a bad one and because of my return to racing. I'm going completely into the unknown. A lot of patients and doctors think that there is permanent damage after chemotherapy — we'll see."

While Armstrong looks forward with cautious optimism with the coming spring classics, Chris Boardman can only rue the continuing ill-luck that has forced him out of the Paris-Nice race.

The Merseysider suffered with injury for much of last year and a bout of flu has put paid to his hopes of becoming the first British winner in Nice since Tom Simpson in 1967.

However, with the top Italian sprinter, Mario Cipollini, also ruled out by illness, the Devon sprinter, Jeremy Hunt, will seek to capitalise on the successes of 1997 on the winding route south to the Mediterranean.

Hunt was among Europe's prolific cyclists last year, winning the points competition and two stages in the Tour de L'Avenir as well as the British road championship. But the favourite for final success in Nice next Sunday is the world No 1, Laurent Jalabert, of France, though he is another recent flu sufferer and may struggle to take his fourth successive victory in the Paris-Nice race. If Jalabert does falter then all but the most hardened onlookers will be willing Armstrong to victory two years after he stood on the podium overlooking the Promenade des Anglais alongside Jalabert after finishing second to the Frenchman.



Armstrong tests his resilience to the full this week after chemotherapy

SNOOKER

Hesitant Hendry masters White

FROM PHIL YATES IN BANGKOK

STEPHEN HENDRY significantly improved his chances of remaining world No 1 for an unprecedented ninth consecutive season when he reached the last 16 of the Thailand Masters, a few hours after John Higgins, his closest pursuer, had been eliminated.

Higgins lost 5-3 to Fergal O'Brien, but Hendry defeated Jimmy White 5-2. The win extended Hendry's winning sequence over White to 13 matches, stretching back to 1994, but the six-times world champion was unhappy with his performance.

"Probably, in terms of standard, that's the worst match I've ever had against Jimmy," he said. "I'm putting myself under pressure because I am struggling so much, but what happened to John didn't affect me."

Hendry, who has failed to add to his collection of 64 tournament wins for 12 months, was fortunate in that, while he made an unusually high number of unforced errors, White made even more. Only in the closing frame, when he clinically constructed an 82 clearance to erase a 47-0 deficit, did Hendry look at ease.

"It's such hard work at the moment," he said. "People forget that top sportsmen are human, not machines, and it's so easy for anyone to get stuck in a bad patch. I am convinced I'll come out of it eventually and when I do I know I'll be better off for the experience."

Higgins, also beaten in the first round on his two most recent visits here, was critical of practice facilities. "They were disgraceful," he said. "I am not as talented as some people and need to play for five or six hours a day just to stay on top of things. At least now, I've got some time at home to prepare for my next few tournaments, but I think it's going to be impossible to catch Stephen."

Higgins, winner of the German Open in December, the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge eight days ago and a finalist in four other events this season, compiled breaks of 80 in the first frame and 110 in the seventh but, for the most part, was out-manoeuvred by his opponent.

O'Brien's spirits had been lifted, only two days before travelling, by a wild-card invitation to the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters, and victory was the ideal way to celebrate his 26th birthday.

"I lost 6-2 to John in the semi-finals of the Regal Scottish Open last month and when I watched the video of it I realised I hadn't made John work hard enough," O'Brien, who will meet Anthony Hamilton, explained.

Mark Williams, who edged Hendry 10-9 on a respotted black in the final of the Masters at Wembley last month, pulled away from 2-2 to beat Dave Harold 5-2. He now faces Martin Clark, who recovered from 4-0 down to beat Alain Robidoux of Canada 5-4. It was Robidoux's tenth successive loss.

Results, page 42

HOCKEY: AUSTRALIA TAKE GOLD MEDAL ON PENALTY STROKES AFTER DRAMATIC FINISH TO MALAYSIAN TOURNAMENT

Garcia shines with hat-trick

THE eighth Sultan Azlan Shah tournament ended here yesterday with Australia winning the gold medal, Germany the silver and South Korea the bronze, after England had earlier beaten Malaysia 3-2 in the play-off for fifth place.

England came from behind to score twice while Brett Garrard was under suspension. It was a hard-fought match which England could have won more convincingly had their aim at goal been steadier.

England got off to an excellent start with Garcia capitalising on a short corner within 55 seconds. There followed the inevitable fightback by Malaysia, who went 2-1 ahead in the second half with goals from short corners by Maninderjit Singh and Shan Kuhan.

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN IN IPOH, MALAYSIA

However, Garcia proved to be England's match-winner by equalising in the 59th minute and converting a penalty stroke three minutes before the end for his hat-trick. The teams will meet again in the World Cup in Utrecht in May.

There was high drama in the final between Australia and Germany, who finished level at 1-1, Australia eventually winning 10-9 on penalty strokes. With Germany leading 1-0 and a little over a minute to go, the English umpire, Nick Lockhart, tripped and fell and was taken to hospital slightly dazed. His place was taken by the reserve umpire, John Wright, of South Africa.

Elmer equalised from a free hit. Early in the match, Mayerhofer had failed to beat the Australia goalkeeper, Diletti, at a penalty stroke.

In the bronze medal play-off, South Korea beat New Zealand 1-0. The Koreans, who scored in the ninth minute from open play, squandered several chances of increasing their lead. New Zealand's best chance arrived two minutes before the end when Umesh Parag put a shot inches wide of the far post.

Olton pay for Trojans' cheek

IT WAS inevitable that Olton would feel the full backlash from Slough. Held to a 3-3 draw by Trojans on Saturday, Slough returned to form with a vengeance to win 5-1 yesterday in the penultimate game of the season.

Forced to come from behind after Mandy Gatherer had shot the visitors into a ninth-minute lead, MacDonald, the league's leading goalscorer, scored either side of the break to make it 2-1, with Kelleher putting in two penalty corner goals. Sue Chandler, the captain, added the fifth when she converted a late penalty stroke.

With the Premiership title safely in their grasp, Slough had set their sights on becoming the first team to win the championship with a 100 per cent record.

BY CATHY HARRIS

However, after leading 3-1 against bottom-of-the-table Trojans, the Southampton club responded superbly to earn a point.

Even that was not enough to save Trojans from relegation after Doncaster's victory over Clifton.

There has to be some sympathy for Trojans. They have been dogged by injury and illness to key players and have struggled against some sides that they should have beaten, but after becoming the first club to take a point off the holders, they must be wondering if there is any justice. It was a different story at Leicester, who swept to the first division title and promotion with a convincing 4-0 win against Canterbury. The much criticised decision of the five England players in Leicester's squad to remain loyal and help their club to return to the top flight within a season has been vindicated. Two of them, Sarah Blanks and Purdy Miller, scored, with Sue Holwell and Sarah Naylor also on target.

The race for promotion in the second division will go to the final week with Aldridge, the leaders, needing only to draw their last match against Sherwood to see off the challenge from Old Loughtonians.

ICE HOCKEY

Eagles head towards clean sweep

AYR Scottish Eagles remain on course to win all four leading competitions this season. On Saturday, they recorded their second successive win in the Superleague play-offs by beating Sheffield Steelers 3-2.

Eagles moved into a 3-0 lead after 28 minutes through Shawn Byram, Sam Groleau and Matt Hoffman before Steelers ensured some respectability with goals from Tim Cranston and Scott Allison.

In the group's other game, Nottingham Panthers came from behind to defeat Newcastle Cobras 5-2. Brett Stewart and Jamie Pegg gave Newcastle a 2-0 lead after 12 minutes, but the Panthers scored five without reply through Steve Carpenter, Marty Dallman (2), Greg Hadden and Derek Laxtal, their leading scorer.

Manchester Storm extended their unbeaten run in league and cup games to 14 by drawing 2-2 at Cardiff Devils after overtime. Both teams have three points, one ahead of Bracknell Bees who enjoyed a 7-5 home success against Basingstoke Bison.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

Vaudhall Conference
Kidderminster v Hednesford (7.45) ..
Stevenage v Welling (7.45) .....

Tennents Scottish Cup
Fifth round
Rangers v Dundee (7.45) .....

Bell's Scottish League
Third division
Cowdenbeath v East Stirling .....

UNIBOND LEAGUE: President's Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Ashton United v Gusoley.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Chelsea v Millwall (at Kingstonian FC, 7.0). Oxford United v Queens Park Rangers.
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Liverpool v Preston (at Chester City FC, 7.0); Stoke v Manchester United (at Britannia Stadium, 7.0). First division: Leicester v Grimsby (7.0) Second division: Lincoln v Stockport (7.0), Wrexham v Sheffield United (7.0)
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Keynsham v Melksham.

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Sunderland v Birmingham (7.45) Second division: Bristol Rovers v York (7.45) Third division: Darlington v Shrewsbury; Doncaster v Scarborough.
AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Area finals, first leg: South: Walsall v Bournemouth (7.45). North: Grimsby v Burnley (7.45)
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Nationwide League under-21 v Italy Serie B (at Charlton, 7.45)
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Cheltenham v Farnborough (7.45); Kettering v Yeovil (7.45); Slough v Woking (7.45).
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Second division: Forfar v Inverness CT; Livingston v Queen of South. Third division: Montrose v Ross County

RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Newcastle v Sale (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: All England Championships (at Birmingham)
BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Birmingham Bullets v Sheffield Sharks (7.30).
ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Play-offs: Group A: Nottingham Panthers v Sheffield Steelers (7.30), Newcastle Cobras v Ayr Scottish Eagles (7.30) Group B: Bracknell Bees v Cardiff Devils (7.30); Basingstoke Bison v Manchester Storm (7.30).

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa v Barnsley (7.45), Chelsea v Crystal Palace (7.45), Leeds v Blackburn (7.45), West Ham v Manchester United (7.45); * Wimbledon v Arsenal (8.0).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Middlesbrough v Swindon (7.45)

RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Gloucester v Wasps (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: All England Championships (at Birmingham)
BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Thames Valley Tigers v Leicester Riders (8.0).

THURSDAY

BADMINTON: All England Championships (at Birmingham).
BOXING: World Boxing Council lightwelterweight championship: S Neary (Liverpool, holder) v A Holligan (Liverpool) (at Stanley Park, Liverpool).

FRIDAY

BADMINTON: All England Championships (at Birmingham)
BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Leicester Riders v Birmingham Bullets (8.0); Newcastle Eagles v London Towers (7.30); Sheffield Sharks v Crystal Palace (7.30).

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa v Crystal Palace; Barnsley v Southampton; Bolton v Sheffield Wednesday; Everton v Blackburn, Manchester United v Arsenal (11.15); Newcastle v Coventry; Tottenham v Liverpool; West Ham v Chelsea; Wimbledon v Leicester.
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bradford v Birmingham; Huddersfield v Tranmere; Norwich v West Bromwich; Nottingham Forest v Bury; Oxford United v Stoke; Port Vale v Manchester City; Portsmouth v Middlesbrough; Queens Park Rangers v Swindon; Sheffield United v Reading; Stockport v Ipswich; Wolverhampton v Crewe. Second division: Bournemouth v Wrexham; * Bristol City v Bristol Rovers; Burnley v Luton; Carlisle v Brentford; Fulham v Millwall; Gillingham v Chesterfield; Grimsby v Walsall; Northampton v Blackpool; Preston v York; Watford v Southend, * Wigan v Oldham, Wycombe v Plymouth. Third division: Barnet v Brighton; Cambridge United v Scunthorpe; Cardiff v Doncaster; Chester v Notts County; Colchester v Macclesfield; Darlington v Torquay; Exeter v Hull; Hartlepool v Swansea; Lincoln v Rochdale; Rotherham v Mansfield; Scarborough v Leyton Orient; Shrewsbury v Peterborough.
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Hednesford v Halifax; Hereford v Gateshead; Northwich v Morecambe; Welling v Leek; Woking v Rushden and Diamonds; Yeovil v Stalybridge.
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Celtic v Dundee United; Dunfermline v Aberdeen; Hearts v Kilmarnock; Motherwell v Rangers; St Johnstone v Hibernian. First division: Ayr v Airdrie; Dundee v Greenock Morton; Falkirk v Raith; Partick v St Mirren; Stirling v Hamilton. Second division: Clyde v Inverness CT; Clydebank v Livingston; East Fife v Stranraer; Forfar v Stenhousemuir; Queen of South v Brechin. Third division: Albion v Cowdenbeath; Arbroath v Alloa; East Stirling v Berwick; Queen's Park v Dumbarton; Ross County v Montrose.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Bath v Leicester (2.15); Northampton v Bristol; Richmond v Newcastle; Sale v Harlequins. Second division: Bedford v Wakefield; Coventry v London Scottish; Exeter v Orrell; Fylde v West Hartlepool; Moseley v Waterloo; Rotherham v Blackheath.
JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Leeds v Liverpool St Helens; London Welsh v Harrogate; Lydney v Worcester; Newbury v Rugby; Otley v Reading; Rosslyn Park v Nottingham; Wharfedale v Morley. Second division north: Hinckley v Lichfield; Kendal v Aspatria; Manchester v Birmingham/Solihull; Preston v Grasshoppers v Walsall; Sedgley Park v Sheffield; Stourbridge v Sandal; Winnington Park v Nuneaton. Second division south: Bridgwater v Taunton; Cheltenham v Esher; Clifton v Camberley; Havant v Barking; North Walsham v Plymouth; Redruth v Met Police, Weston-super-Mare v Henley.
WELSH LEAGUE: Premier division: Bridgend v Newport (2.30); Swansea v Ebbw Vale (2.30). First division: Blackwood v Newbridge (2.30); Bonymaen v Cardiff Institute (2.30); Caerphilly v Aberbeary (2.30); Cross Keys v Abertillery (2.30); Llandovery v Pontypool (2.30); Merthyr v Maesteg (2.30); Rumney v Dunvant (2.30); South Wales Police v Treorchy (2.30).
AIB LEAGUE: First division: Garryowen v Terenure (2.30); Old Crescent v St Mary's Coll (2.30). Second division: Buccaneers v Instonians (2.30); Malone v Greystones (2.30); Skerries v UCC (2.30); Sunday's Well v Galwegians (2.30).

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Quarter-final: Castleford Tigers v Sheffield Eagles (2.30).

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: National cross country championships (at Leeds).
BADMINTON: All England Championships (at Birmingham).
BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby Storm v Sheffield Sharks (7.30); Watford Royals v Leicester Riders (7.30), Thames Valley Tigers v Chester Jets (8.0); Worthing Bears v Newcastle Eagles (8.0).
BOXING: British light-heavyweight championship: C Ashley (holder, Leeds) v M Wright (Stevenage) (at York Hall, Bethnal Green).
ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Play-offs: Group A: Nottingham Panthers v Newcastle Cobras (7.0); Sheffield Steelers v Ayr Scottish Eagles (7.0). Group B: Manchester Storm v Cardiff Devils (7.0); Basingstoke Bison v Bracknell Bees (7.0).

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Derby v Leeds (4.0)
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Charlton v Sunderland (1.0).

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Gloucester v Saracens; Wasps v London Irish.
AIB LEAGUE: First division: Shannon v Young Munster (2.30).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Quarter-finals: London Broncos v Hull Kingston Rovers; Salford Reds v Hull Sharks; Wigan Warriors v St Helens (1.45).
FIRST DIVISION: Featherstone Rovers v Widnes Vikings (3.30); Keighley Cougars v Leigh Centurions; Rochdale Hornets v Dewsbury Rams; Swinton Lions v Hunslet Hawks; Wakefield Trinity v Whitehaven Warriors (3.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester Jets v Worthing Bears (5.30); Birmingham Bullets v Derby Storm (8.30); London Towers v London Leopards (8.30).
ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Play-offs: Group A: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Nottingham Panthers (6.30); Sheffield Steelers v Newcastle Cobras (6.30). Group B: Cardiff Devils v Basingstoke Bison (6.0); Bracknell Bees v Manchester Storm (6.0).

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SAILING

Around the world in 80 days is on for Edwards

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

AGAINST a generally unfavourable meteorological background, Tracy Edwards and her all-female multinational crew aboard *Royal & SunAlliance* are putting up an impressive show in their attempt to set a non-stop round-the-world sailing record.

Even their most loyal supporters admit to being surprised by the progress that *Royal & SunAlliance* has made since crossing the official start line off Ushant on February 3. Athough the 92ft catamaran is still just short of halfway round the planet, this voyage is beginning to look like a credible attempt on Olivier de Kersauson's record of 71 days, and a time of fewer than 80 days is a realistic possibility.

Yesterday, the huge cat was crossing the longitude of Cape Leeuwin, the westernmost tip of Australia, at 53 degrees south, having just completed her 33rd day at sea and a 24-hour run of 337 miles. *Royal & SunAlliance* has now covered 10,971 miles at an average speed of 13.9 knots.

By comparison, De Kersauson was about 1,192 miles ahead on the equivalent day in his voyage on *Sport-Elec* last year. In good conditions, this amounts to just three days sailing.

Yesterday, Edwards and her ten-strong crew were making 15 to 20 knots on an easterly heading in 30-knot winds under staysail and one reef in the mainsail. Adrienne Cahalan, the navigator, is trying to pick a course along a fairly narrow weather band; above them, light airs will slow their progress; below them, heavy conditions also would impede them, with an increasing danger of collision with ice.

"Although we are currently behind Olivier de Kersuason, we are still very optimistic and everyone is determined as ever," Edwards reported. "Our weather expert, Bob Rice, thinks we are in an excellent position now, with optimum conditions forecast for the next few days."

After a slow run to the Equator which they reached in 11 days, slightly quicker than De Kersauson, *Royal & SunAlliance* was pushed a long way west in her attempt to get round a South Atlantic high. The women need to accumulate consecutive 400-mile days to offset likely calms in more high-pressure systems in the Atlantic on their way north after Cape Horn.

Ed Danby, the *Royal & SunAlliance* project manager who sailed aboard the catamaran when, as *ENZA New Zealand*, she set a record time of 74 days in 1994-95, said yesterday that he had not expected the women to do so well, given the often frustrating conditions.

"I think they've done incredibly well, especially since they haven't had the consistently high 400-mile days which both *ENZA* and *Sport-Elec* had," he said. "What's going well is they are not trying to to push the boat very hard . . . they are sailing within their capability, sitting on 16 knots of boat-speed in 20 to 25 knot winds."

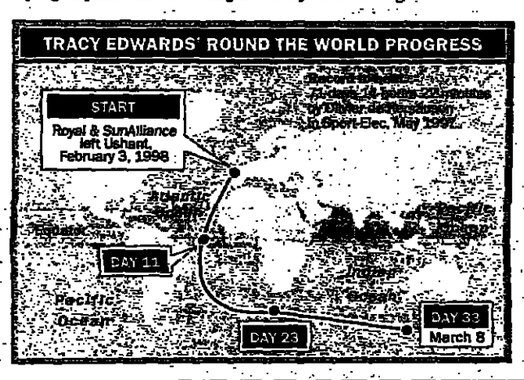
Danby paid tribute to Cahalan, "I think she is one of the big players in the performance of the boat," he said. "Before she left she was gung ho about driving and pushing the boat hard, but what she's doing now is setting targets within their capability and not trying to make them do too much."

Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, who jointly skippered *ENZA* with Sir Peter Blake, said 80 days was now possible. "If they can hold their current speed and get a good run for the next few days, they are certainly on time to bust 80 days — just," he said. "But they have got to pile up the money in the bank now to allow for delays up the Atlantic."

☐ Ed Baird, one of the world's top match-racers and the designated helmsman for the New York Yacht Club's PACT 2000 America's Cup syndicate, has joined *Innovation Kvaerner*, the troubled Whitbread Round the World Race yacht. The move follows the departure of watch leader Pierre Mas over what a spokesman described as "disagreements on how the project should be run" with the skipper, Knut Frostad.

Baird will sail as a helmsman and tactician and remain on board for the rest of the race. *Kvaerner* started well with the only two top-three finishes in the first two legs. But she has slid downhill since then and is now in fifth place overall with 359 points, 148 points adrift of race leader *EF Language*.

☐ Ben Ainslie, of Britain, the Atlanta Olympic Games silver medal-winner, is leading the singlehanded (open) fleet at the International Sailing Federation world championships in Dubai. After five races and with a discard in force, Ainslie had accumulated just seven points with two firsts, a second and a third. In second place is Roope Suornalainen, of Finland, on 15 points, with Karl Suneson, of Sweden, third.





Mud-splattered competitors plough on in the English Schools cross-country championships at Cheltenham racecourse. Photograph: Darren Fletcher

Africans endure an English tradition

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

ST JOHN Ambulance called for reinforcements, so lengthy was the casualty list. Never had there been English Schools cross-country championships quite like those held at Cheltenham racecourse on Saturday. Out of Africa they came to share in the medals. One Ethiopian winner, a silver medal for Somalia.

Among the front-runners, too, was the son of a famous father and the delightfully named Amber Gascoigne, whose university challenge is about to begin. One boy, not content to win, performed a swan dive as he crossed the line. All this and a rainbow. Mud, glorious mud.

However, there were serious implications between the glutinous layers. When Sam Haughian won the senior boys' title, it underlined the paucity of emerging talent in British distance running.

Haughian won by 44 seconds, an extraordinary margin for a race of seven kilometres. The distance was reduced from eight kilometres because of the conditions. St John dealt with 50 casualties; cuts and strains caused by falls and tired limbs ploughing through mud shin-deep.

Seven days earlier, Haughian had taken the Inter-Counties championship by 28 seconds. He has not lost a race in his age group all winter. The Surrey schoolboy is in a class of his own, but should not be. He is being made to look better than he is.

According to Peter Matthews, the statistician and television commentator, British endurance running is suffering a "near collapse of standards at junior level". On the track last season, Haughian was Britain's leading under-20 5,000 metres runner. However, an analysis by Matthews, to be published in *Inside Track* magazine next month, shows that Haughian's quickest time, 14min 52.88sec, would not have ranked him in the national top ten from 1970 to 1985.

Haughian's mark is 41 seconds slower than John Mayock, Britain's newly-crowned European indoor 3,000 metres champion, ran at the same age in 1989, and nearly 1½ laps slower than Steve Binns recorded in 1979.

This summer season marks ten years since a British record was set in any of the ten main outdoor track events for men, from 800 metres up to 10,000 metres, plus the marathon. It is ten years, too, since Britain last had a men's outdoor world or Olympic medal to celebrate. Not since 1989 has a British man finished among the individual medals at the world cross-country championships.

Haughian, 18, said on Saturday that his ambition was to finish among the top 40 juniors at the world championships in Marrakesh on Sunday week. Understandably, he said of the Africans: "I cannot see any realistic way of beating them in the near future."

It is a trend symptomatic of Europe. Haughian did, after all, finish fifth in the European championships in December. Belgium last year went part way to solving the problem by selecting Mohamed Mourhit for its world championship team. Mourhit, formerly a Moroccan, has married into the country and finished fifth, the first "European".

How much longer before Britain is underpinned by African strength? Ammanuel T'Shaye, 18 months in Britain after fleeing Ethiopia with his brother, won the junior boys' title in only his third race. Mohamed Farah, five years in Britain since leaving Somalia, finished second to the swan-diving Lee McCash in the intermediate race.

Birhan Dagne, an Ethiopian refugee, won the under-20 women's English clubs title last winter. There are more Africans coming. Daniel T'Shaye. Ammanuel's brother, is, according to Brian Hobbs, their PE teacher, the better of the two.

The T'Shaye brothers are pupils at Haling Manor, a mixed comprehensive in Croydon, where 72 languages and dialects are spoken. In foster care, the brothers are not property. Hobbs has logged phone calls from 17 clubs wanting to sign them.

In contrast to Haughian's senior victory, the senior girls' event was close. Caroline Walsh beating Gascoigne by two seconds. Gascoigne, having made the grade as a runner, hopes to do so as a student and has been offered a place at Loughborough University.

Tom Bedford was second in the junior boys' race, a national breakthrough for the son of Dave Bedford, the former 10,000 metres world record-holder. Will the genes from a former British sporting hero serve the nation better than African ones? We shall see.

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

BASKETBALL: LEADERS OPEN SIX-POINT GAP WITH OVERTIME WIN

Leopards inspired by Dorsey's exit

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

THE sight of Tony Dorsey making a premature exit from the National Exhibition Centre on Saturday gave the Leopards just the incentive they needed to win a crucial Budweiser League fixture.

It was when Dorsey had fouled out after scoring 28 points for Birmingham Bullets that the champions raised their game to gain a 91-87 overtime victory which provided the strongest possible hint that Billy Mims's squad has the title within its sights again.

Dorsey's irresistible drives to the basket had supplied the last baskets for the Bullets in the final seconds of each of the first three quarters. But, when he was not around for the last six minutes of the final quarter, Leopards clawed their way back into a game which had looked beyond them.

"Dorsey had a great game," Mims said. "But with three of our players, Makeeba Perry, John White and Robert Youngblood guarding him, he had to work so hard offensively. That left him a bit cheap on defence."

Bullets had just taken their biggest lead at 73-65 when Dorsey committed his last costly foul. Whatever chance the Bullets had of withstanding the ensuing barrage from the Leopards disappeared when they went into over-time with H. L. Coleman, Clive Allen, Fabulous Flournay and Chris Haslam all on four fouls. Ryan Cuff had forced the extra five minutes for the Leopards with four points in the last 87 seconds. Like White, Perry, and the high-stepping Eric Burks, the other Leopards scorers during the extra five minutes, Cuff was able to exploit the sudden unease in the Bullets defence.

The Leopards now have a six-point gap over the Bullets and Sheffield Sharks, who have both played three games fewer. Behind the top trio, the battle for play-off spots gathered pace. The eighth and final place is almost certainly between Chester Jets, who overcame Crystal Palace 99-89 with 31 points from Brian Lloyd, Leicester Riders and Derby Storm. The last two met in the Granby Halls, where the Riders won 97-88.

BOWLS: ALLCOCK APPROACHES SWANSEA EVENT WITH LOWEST RANKING

Stage set for gripping winter's tale

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

DESPITE the existence of a Professional Bowls Association and the creation of a World Bowls Tour, the mainstream game remains endearingly amateur, as the men's British Isles championships and home international series, which start in Swansea today, prove.

This weekend brought news that the Tour, which now controls bowls at professional level, has decided to take one of its prestigious televised events — the International Open — away from Preston Guild Hall and stage it instead at Potters Leisure Resort, near Great Yarmouth.

It was also announced that Hugh Duff has knocked Andy Thomson off the top of the world professional ranking list and that Tony Allcock, the world outdoor singles champion, has slipped down to No 17 — his lowest position since the ranking list was introduced.

Nearly all Britain's self-styled "professional" bowlers, including Duff, Thomson and Allcock, as well as Mervyn King, who is in third place, will be at Swansea for what all bowlers — amateur and professional — still regard as the highlight of the winter season.

Thomson no longer enters the national championships, so is ineligible for a crack at an individual title, but Corsie will be challenging for the pairs title, Allcock for the triples and Price, the chairman of the PBA, for triples and fours.

The Tye Green club, of Harlow, defeated Torbay 80-76 in the final of the women's national inter-club championship at Potters on Saturday.

Yesterday, the bowls caravan stopped briefly at Huntingdon, where last week's national champions challenged last year's for the right to represent England in the British Isles women's indoor championships at Darlington next Monday.

In a match that went to 26 ends, Norma Shaw, the 1997 national and world indoor singles champion, staved off a strong challenge from Carol Ashby, of Eastbourne, who won the English title at Potters last week, and got home by winning 21-19.

TABLE TENNIS: INDEFATIGABLE VETERAN PUSHES SYED TO FIVE SETS IN NATIONAL SINGLES FINAL

Douglas defies the years to win doubles

BY RICHARD EATON

DESMOND DOUGLAS extended his incredible record of English national titles to 30 by winning the men's doubles with Alan Cooke at Bath Leisure Centre yesterday. Even more improbable after a career which has spanned 2½ decades, the left-hander came within a handful of points of winning the singles title again before losing an hour-long final 18-21, 21-10, 21-16, 15-21, 21-16 to the title-holder and Commonwealth champion, Matt Syed.

Douglas had said that at 42 he could still win big matches, but could not last a long tournament. He played six matches yesterday, an arduous proposition for many young men, and, but for a late surge of athletic defending and sudden backhand counter-attacks from the admirable Syed, would have achieved a remarkable victory.

"I was extremely nervous. All the pressure was on me," Syed said. "It's incredible that Des can play like that at this age. He's one of the all-time greats and it was a privilege to have been able to play against him."

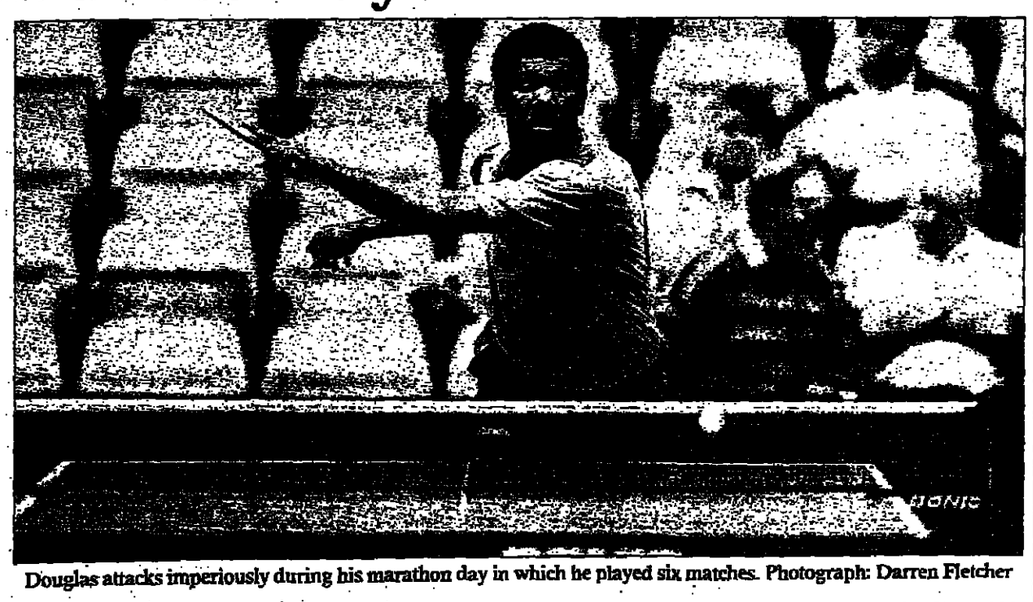
Douglas frequently penetrated one of the three or four best defences in the world by changing, fiercely and unexpectedly, from slow loops to fast loops. As he began to tire he tried to move Syed in and out cleverly and more often. But fatigue got to him in the end. "I am completely knackered. My legs are absolutely killing me," he said.

Douglas had looked tired while winning his quarter-final earlier in the day, dispatching the former title-holder, Carl Prean, seeded No 2, 21-19, 21-9, 18-21, 23-21. He then gave a lesson to England's most promising player, 19-year-old Terry Young, the No 4 seed, in the semi-finals, winning 21-11, 21-17, 17-21, 21-15.

Douglas and Cooke then played their third men's doubles match of the day, the final, defeating the teenagers, Young and Gareth Herbert 21-12, 21-6, with almost embarrassing ease.

It was Douglas's fifteenth national doubles title and his sixth with Cooke.

The women's title was won for the fourth time by Lisa Lomas in what is likely to be her last national championships. The former European silver medal-winner defeated Nicola Deaton, the champion, 15-21, 21-15, 21-16, 21-8.



Douglas attacks imperiously during his marathon day in which he played six matches. Photograph: Darren Fletcher

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FOR THE RECORD

BIATHLON

POKLJUKA, Slovenia: World Cup: Men: 10km (missed targets in brackets): 1, V Drachev (Russ) 23min 21.8sec (1); 2, S Fischer (Ger) 23:28.7 (1); 3, I Bäcls (Ital) 23:48.9 (1); 4, H Gross (Ger) 23:50.1 (1); 5, O E Bjoerndalen (Nor) 23:55.1 (2); 6, S Rojkov (Russ) 23:55.5. Leading World Cup positions: 1, Bjoerndalen 256pts; 2, Gross 253; 3, Fischer 217; 4, V Magurov (Russ) 206; 5, H Hanevold (Nor) 202; 6, F Andresen (Nor) 200. Women: 7.5km: 1, M Forsberg (Swe) 23:43.6; 2, A E Skjelbreid (Nor) 24:13.1 (1); 3, C Gros (Fr) 24:29.4 (1); 4, P Behle (Ger) 24:42.7; 5, F Baverel (Fr) 24:44.9; 6, E Dafovska (Bul) 24:51.7 (1). Leading World Cup positions: 1, Forsberg 337; 2, U Disl (Ger) 272; 3, G Kukleva (Russ) 227; 4, C Niogret (Fr) 201; 5, M Zellner (Ger) 188; 6, A Akhatova (Russ) 178.

BOWLS

HOPTON-ON-SEA: English English women's championships: *Yetton Trophy: Semi-finals:* Tye Green, Harlow bt Thornaby 91-73 (Tye Green skips first: J Granger lost to J Frosdick 21-24; S Bloomfield bt M Welch 19-17; B Fuller bt B Alderson 30-16; J Watt bt N Shaw 21-16); Torbay bt Bentham, Gloucs 72-68 (R Capp bt M Pye 19-17; H Sanders bt M Staffey 22-19; B Day lost to G Smith 12-13; W Barnard drew with M Reeve 19-19). Final: Tye Green, Harlow bt Torbay 80-76 (Tye Green skips first: Granger bt Sanders 28-11; Wyatt lost to Day 18-9; Bloomfield bt Barnard 17-13; Fuller lost to Capp 17-23)

CYCLING

PARIS: Paris-Nice: First stage (Suresnes to Paris, 10km): 1, F Vandenbroucke (Bel) 12:31; 2, L Jalabert (Fr) 07; 3, B Boscardin (Switz) 20; 4, L Dufaux (Switz) 20; 5, A Zulle (Switz) 22; 6, C Moreau (Fr) 22; 7, H Vogels (Holl) 23; 8, M Garcia (Sp) 24; 9, P Gaumont (Fr) 25; 10, N Mattan (Bel) 27.

SPAIN: Tour of Murcia: Final stage: Time trial (13km): 1, A Elli (It, Casino) 15min 30sec; 2, T Tauler (Sp, Ros Mary) 1sec; 3, M Maun (Sp, ONCE) same time; 4, U Pechel (Ger, Estepona) 8; 5, A Garmendia (Sp, Banesto) 11; 6, V Cali (Fr, Casino) 15; 7, J V Garcia (Sp, Banesto) 16; 8, J Carlos Taboas (Sp, Recer) 17; 9, A Leznibarruba (Sp, ONCE) 17; 10, I Gonzalez (Sp, Euskadi) 18. Leading final overall positions: 1, Elli 18hr 35min 3sec; 2, A Vinokourov (Kaz, Casino) 41sec; 3, M Pantani (It, Mercatone) same time; 4, Gonzalez 1:18; 5, Maun 1:25; 6, C Miranda (Sp, Estepona) 1:29; 7, M Zberg (Switz, Swiss Post) 1:34; 8, J Ochoa (Sp, Kelme) 1:49; 9, D Garcia (Sp, Vitalicio) 1:54; 10, M Beltran (Sp, Banesto) 2:05.

ROAD RACES: Jock Wadley Memorial (Colchester, 88 miles): 1, J Bayfield (Team Invader) 3hr 40min 12sec; 2, B Fleming (Cannons) same time; 3, D Rand (PDM Sports) at 3sec. Tour of the Downs (Mereworth, Kent, 75 miles): 1, R Hurd (ASFRA-Flanders) 2:41:48; 2, D Axford (Team 120/80) at 3sec; 3, T Bayley (VC Deal) at 1:57. *Mersey RC two-day (Hope, Clwyd, 121 miles):* 1, D Williams (unatt) 4:49:17; 2, A Malarczyk (Cwmcarn Paragon) at 31sec; 3, M Jones (Paramount CRT) same time. Silverbeck Rymer Eddie Soens Memorial Handicap (Aintree, 50 miles): 1, M Bottrill (North Wirral Velo) 1:51:49; 2, I Gilkes (GS Strada) at 15sec; 3, J Ramsbottom (North Wirral Velo) at 36sec.

TIME TRIALS: Diss and District CC (medium gear, 25 miles): 1, R Hughes (Clarence Wheelers) 56min 45sec (event record); 2, R Laws (Birkenhead Victoria CC) 58:52; 3, D Gill (Diss and District CC) 58:52. Team: CC Breckland 3:11:22. Antelope RT (Reading, 25 miles): 1, S Hayes (Twickenham CC) 57:06; 2, J Woodburn (Northovers VT) 57:11; 3, A Oakley (Middlesex RC) 58:48. Team: Twickenham CC 2:59:06. Matlock CC (hilly, 25 miles): 1, J Wright (Edinburgh BC) 1:05.29; 2, J Rickards (Team Guru) 1:06:13; 3, A Le Heup (Matlock CC) 1:07:06. Team: Matlock CC 3:30:08. Walsall RCC (two-up, 25 miles): 1, G Dighton and W Moore (Leo RC) 53:23; 2, N Peart (Walsall RCC) and D Willetts (Birchfield CC) 55:50; 3, S Burns (Walsall RCC) and R Eperjesi (Elizabethan CC) 56:31. *Hampshire RC (Circuit of Hambledon, 39 kilometres):* 1, G Longland (Radford Accountants) 58:42 (event record); 2, P Rogers (VC St Raphael) 1:00:54; 3, A Fotheringham (Army CU) 1:04:03. Team: Southdown Velo 3:24:51. Chester RC two-up (23 miles): 1, A McFayden and P McFayden (Harlech Wheelers) 50.13; 2, C Leslie and M Baker (Team Velo Sport) 52:24; 3, A Hilton and S Hankey (Warrington RC) 52:55. VC Sevale (Malvern, hilly 21 miles): 1, J Gillian (Total Fitness) 52:50; 2, R Hallett (Sydenham Wheelers) 54:10; 3, A Bird (Worcester St John's CC) 54:34. Team: Worcester St John's CC 2:59:12. Maldon and District CC (hilly, 20 miles): 1, R Van Looy (Colchester Rovers) 47:13; 2, G Taylor (Leo RC) 49:10; eq 3, C Brooking (Cambridge CC) and T Barber (VC Norwich) 49:24. Harrogate Nova CC (hilly, 19 miles): 1, I Cooke (JE James RT) 48:09; 2, S Wales (City RC, Hull) 48:50; 3, S Roberts (Team Rapide) 48:55. Team: Airedale Olympic 2:34:52. Sussex CA (Ashurst, 18.5 miles): 1, S Elms (East Grinstead CC) 37:13; 2, M Silver (Hounslow and District Wheelers) 40:33; 3, R Richardson (Hounslow and District Wheelers) 40:34. Team: Hounslow and District Wheelers 2:01:53. Antelope RT (Reading, 10 miles): 1, R Prebble (Team Clean) 21:25; 2, M Pooley (Team Pearson) 22:06; 3, S Howes (West Drayton MBC) 22:10. Clifton CC (Tadcaster, 10 miles): 1, H Walker (Team Guru) 21:00; 2, A Hardy (Leo RC) 21:20; 3, R Townsend (Halifax RC) 21:49. Team: Guru 1:05:42. Cardiff Ajax CC (10 miles): 1, C Pritchard (Condor Cycles) 21:32; 2, A Butcher (Newport Phoenix) 21:57; 3, K Murray (Army 1TT) 22:04. Elite CC (Essex, 10 miles): Eq 1, L Palmer (Leo RC) and R Hagger (API Resprays) 21:37; 3, M St Leger (Essex Police CC) 22:00. Dursley RC (Gloucester, 10 miles): 1, R Lyne (Team Bristol) 22:32; 2, N Hutchings (MCS RT) 22:43; 3, P Gamlin (MCS RT) 23:28. Team: MCS RT 1:10:16. CC Todmorden (Garstang, 10 miles): 1, G Butler (Norwood Paragon) 21:15; 2, R Warrington (Team Lusso) 22:01; 3, D Hitchens (New Brighton CC) 22:16. Team: Lancaster CC 1:15:33. St Budeaux CC 10-mile TT (Ivybridge, Devon): A Lyons (Plymouth Corinthian) 22:48.

DISABLED SPORT

NAGANO, Japan: Winter Paralympics (winners): Saturday: *Alpine skiing: Downhill:* Postponed till Sunday because of bad weather. Ice Sledge racing: Men: 100m: LWX (disabilities in both lower limbs): Y Takeda (Japan) 14.83sec (bad world record). LWXI (disabilities in both lower limbs, less severe than LWX): K Lundstroem (Nor) 14.47. 500m: LWX: Takeda 1min 10.70sec. LWXI: Lundstroem 1:08.35. Women: 100m: LWX: T Edvardsen (Nor) 18.47sec. LWXI: 1, A-M Samdal (Nor) 15.69 (world record); 2, Tsuchida (Japan) 16.74. 500m: LWX: M Matsue (Japan) 1min 28.46sec. LWXI: 1, Samdal 1:17.26 (Paralympic record). Yesterday: Alpine skiing: Downhill: Men: LWX: C Waddell (US) 1min 3.59sec. LWXI: J Davis (US) 1:03.60. LW1 (both lower limbs)/LW3(one lower limb)/LW5/7(both upper limbs)/LW9 (one upper lim ad one lower limb): J L Paterson (Aus) 1:07.24. LW2 (one lower limb): G Mannino (US) 1:10.78. LW4 (one lower limb, less severe than LW2): 1, H Burn (Switz) 1:06.22. LW6/8 (one upper limb): R Heinzmann (Switz) 1:05.71. Nordic cross country: 5km: Men: SITSKI: LWXII (disabilities in both lower limbs, less severe than LW11): K Jole-Erkkila (Fin) 17:48.6. LWXI: R Weber (Switz) 17:55.2. LWX: S Chilov (Russ) 18:03.4. *Blind: Class three:* A Nassarouline (Russ) 14.48.7. *Class two:* F Hoefle (Ger) 14:32.0. Class one: V Kouptchinski (Russ) 15:14.7. Standing: Classes LW3,4,9 (disabilities in both lower limbs, one lower limb, one upper limb and one lower limb): A Favre (Fr) 16:12.8. Classes LW5-8 (both upper limbs/one upper limb): S-O Horn (Nor) 15:08.1. Mental class: P Kardash (Ukr) 16:24.1. Women: 2.5km: SITSKI: LWX, LWXI, LWXII: R H Myklebust (Nor) 9:22.6. 5km: Blind: Classes two and three: K Tuikkanen (Fin) 18:29.5. Class one: E Maxwald (Austria) 18:31.8. Standing: Classes LW2-9 (one lower limb, one upper limb and one lower limb): T Kari (Fin) 17:18.9.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday: New York Islanders 4 Buffalo 2; Carolina 5 Phoenix 4 (OT); San Jose 3 Anaheim 0. Saturday: Chicago 2 Boston 1; Los Angeles 2 Detroit 1; New Jersey 6 New York Rangers 3; Pittsburgh 6 Philadelphia 4; St Louis 2 Dallas 1; Washington 6 Florida 3; Buffalo 2 Montreal 1; Colorado 4 New York Islanders 2; Ottawa 2 Calgary 1; Toronto 4 *Edmonton 1; Vancouver 5 Tampa Bay 2.*

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
New Jersey	39	16	7	180	123	85
Philadelphia	31	20	9	174	139	71
Washington	27	24	11	169	164	65
NY Rangers	19	27	16	153	169	54
NY Islanders	22	32	8	182	174	52
Florida	18	31	12	147	176	48
Tampa Bay	12	41	9	119	205	33
Northeast division						
Pittsburgh	32	17	14	179	147	78
Montreal	29	25	7	174	158	65
Boston	26	23	13	157	148	65
Buffalo	25	22	14	154	146	64
Ottawa	25	28	10	143	156	60
Carolina	24	30	7	152	171	55

Western Conference

Central division	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Dallas	38	15	9	186	123	85
Detroit	34	17	13	191	145	81
St Louis	35	22	8	196	156	78
Chicago	24	27	11	151	150	59
Phoenix	24	27	11	169	178	59
Toronto	21	32	8	145	178	50
Pacific division						
Colorado	33	16	15	194	158	82
Los Angeles	28	22	11	176	161	67
Edmonton	23	30	10	160	181	56
San Jose	24	30	7	152	164	55
Calgary	19	31	12	164	189	60
Anaheim	20	32	9	145	186	49
Vancouver	19	34	10	177	223	48

SUPERLEAGUE: Play-offs: Group A: Ayr Scottish Eagles 3 Sheffield Steelers 2; Newcastle Cobras 2 Nottingham Panthers 5. Group B: Cardiff Devils 2 Manchester Storm 2 (OT); Bracknell Bees 7 Basingstoke Bison 5.

RACKETS

QUEENS CLUB: British amateur doubles: *Semi-finals:* W Boon and J Male *beat* A and G Smith-Bingham 15-11, 18-13, 15-8, 15-3; M Hue Williams and M Windows beat T Cockroft and R Owen-Browne 17-14, 11-15, 15-4, 15-3, 15-6. Final: Boon and Male bt Hue Williams and Windows 15-5, 15-9, 15-12, 15-4.

RIFLE SHOOTING

KINGSTON UPON THAMES: Women's small bore match (teams of seven): 1, Civil Service 1,335pts (G Adams 195); 2, Royal Navy 1,297 (J Briggs 193); 3, Army 1,229 (F Weston 191). (teams of 8): 1, Civil Service 1,525 (G Adams 194); 2, Royal Airforce 1,452 (S McGregor 193).

ROWING

OXFORD TORPIDS: Finishing order: Men: First division: Oriel; Pembroke; Magdalen; New College; Brasenose; University; Christ Church; Lincoln; Exeter; Worcester; Oriel II; and Queens'. Second division: St Edmund Hall; Wadham; St Catherine's; Trinity; Jesus; St John's; St Peter's; Merton; Balliol; Hertford; Lady Margaret Hall; and Keble. Third division: Osler-Green; St Anne's; Linacre; Mansfield; Wolfson; Corpus Christi; Pembroke II; Keble II; Oriel III; New College II; Christ Church II; Balliol II. Fourth division: University II; Magdalen II; St Hugh's; Lincoln II; Brasenose II; Somerville; Lady Margaret Hall II; Wolfson II; St Edmund Hall II; St Anne's II; St John's II; and Wadham II. Fifth division: Exeter II; Worcester II; Jesus II; St Catherine's II; St Peter's II; St Benet's Hall; Queen's II; Oriel IV; Merton II; Hertford II; University III; Magdalen III. Sixth division: Regent's Park; Corpus Christi II; Balliol III; Trinity II; University IV; Lady Margaret Hall III; St Catherine's III; Mansfield II; Linacre II; Pembroke III; St Edmund Hall III; University V; Brasenose III. Women: First division: Osler-Green; St Catherine's; New College; University; Wadham; Lady Margaret Hall; Oriel; Trinity; St Hilda's; Pembroke; Somerville; Lincoln. Second division: Christ Church; Wolfson; St John's; Brasenose; Merton; St Edmund Hall; Queen's; Worcester; Hertford; Balliol; Jesus; Keble. Third division: Exeter; Osler-Green II; Magdalen; St Anne's; St Peter's; Mansfield; Linacre; St Hugh's; Corpus Christi; St Catherine's II; Wolfson II; Wadham II. Fourth division: Regent's Park; Lady Margaret Hall II; Merton II; St Antony's; Hertford II; Magdalen II; Wolfson III; Somerville II; Pembroke II; St Hugh's II; Christ Church II; Oriel II. Fifth division: St Edmund Hall II; Linacre II; Lincoln II; St Peter's II; New College II; St Peter's III; Jesus II; St Hilda's II; St Anne's II; St John's II; Mansfield II; Magdalen III; Worcester II.

WOMEN'S HEAD OF THE RIVER: 1, *Marlow RC A 18min 26.31sec; 2, Thames* RC A 18:43.52; 3, Kingston 19:01.73; 4, Imperial College/Queens Tower *19:02.55*; 5, Thames B 19:06.10; 6, Upper Thame B 19:09.10. Other division winners: Non Tideway Pennant: Nottingham and Union A 19:41. Overseas Pennant: Belvoir (Switzerland) 19:27. University Pennant: Cambridge University A 19.12. Senior 2: Thames D 19:46. Senior 3: Cambridge University C 20.08. Novice University: Emmanuel Cambridge 20.29.

SKIING

KVITFJELL, Norway: World cup: Men: Downhill: 1, N Burtin (Fr) 1min 44.07sec; 2, W Perathoner (It) 1:44.18; equal 3, J Strobl (Austria) and L Kjus (Nor) 1:44.28; 5, D Cuche (Switz) 1:44.37; equal 6, P Runggaldier (It) and B Kernen (Switz) 1:44.48; 48, G Bell (GB) 1:47.24. Super-G: 1, H Knauss (Austria) 1:30.90; 2, P Jaerbyn (Swe) 1:31.20; 3, Cuche 1:31.25; 4, Strobl 1:31.39; 5, Runggaldier 1:31.48; 6, Perathoner 1:31.57. Leading World Cup positions: Downhill: 1, A Schifferer (Austria) 631pts; 2, Hermann Maier (Austria) 479; 3, Burtin 437; 4, J-L Cretier (Fr) 374; 5, K Ghedina (It) 367; 6, *S Eberharter (Austria)* 355. Super-G: 1, Maier 400; 2, Knauss 256; 3, Eberharter 220; 4, Jaerbyn 195; 5, Schifferer 185; 6, Cuche 163. Overall: 1, Maier 1,625; 2, Schifferer 1,054; 3, Eberharter 908; 4, K A Aamodt (Nor) 790; 5, Knauss 758; 6, M von Gruenigen (Switz) 670.

SNOOKER

BANGKOK: Thailand Masters: Wild Card play-off round: S Pettman (Eng) bt K Poomjang (Thai) 5-1; M Fu (HK) bt J Ferguson (Eng) 5-2; D Gray (Eng) bt Guo Hua (China) 5-3; J Birch (Eng) bt R Saraburi (Thai) 5-1. First round: P Ebdon (Eng) bt G Wilkinson (Eng) 5-3; G Dott (Scot) bt D Morgan (Wales) 5-2; F O'Brien (Ire) bt J Higgins (Scot) 5-3; *M Clark (Eng) bt* A Robidoux (Can) 5-4; M Williams (Wales) bt D Harold (Eng) 5-2; A Hamilton (Eng) bt C Small (Scot) 5-3; S Hendry (Scot) bt J White (Eng) 5-2.

SNOWBOARDING

LES GETS, France: World Cup meeting: *Parallel slalom: Men:* 1, *M Bahounek (Ger)*; 2, R Richardsson (Swe); 3, G Rabenser (It). Women: 1, K Ruby (Fr); 2, D Mair (It); 3, M Posch (It)

SPEED SKATING

INZELL, Germany: Men: 1,500m: 1, R Ritsma (Holl) 1:50.31; 2, A Soendral (Nor) *1:50.54; 3, I Postma (Holl) 1:51.09*; 4, M Hersman (Holl) 1:51.14; 5, J Bautenkamp (Holl) 1:51.52; 6, KC Boutiette (US) 1:52.17. Leading World Cup positions: 1, Postma 185pts; 2, Ritsma 180; 3, Soendral 180; 4, Hersman 155; 5, H Noake (Japan) 127; 6, J Straathof (Holl) 82. Women: 3,000m: 1, C Pechstein (Ger) 4:09.48; 2, A Friesinger (Ger) 4:12.??; 3, G Niemann-Stirnemann (Ger) 4:13.48; 4, L Prokasheva (Kaz) 4:16.30; 5, M Uehara (Japan) 4:16.77; 6, B de Loor (Holl) 4:16.91. Leading World Cup positions: 1, Pechstein 195pts; 2, Niemann-Stirnemann 185; 3, E Bold (It) 130; 4, C Zijlstra (Holl) 125; 5, H Warnicke (Ger) 120; 6, T de Jong (Holl) 119.

SWIMMING

RIO DE JANEIRO: World Cup meeting: Men: *Freestyle: 100m:* 1, *G Borges (Br)* 48.16; 2, F Scherer (Br) 49.04; 3, A Cordeiro (Br) 49.39. 400m: 1, M Rosolino (It) 3:52.0; 2, L Lima (Br) 3:54.24; 3, S Mellor (GB) 3:55.85. Backstroke: 100m: 1, S Theloke (Ger) 54.11; 2, R Braun (Ger) 54.26; 3, A Massura (Br) 54.58. Breaststroke: 50m: 1, J Kruppa (Ger) 28.18; 2, R Abernethy (Aus) 28.53; 3, I Mikhailov (Swe) 28.81. 200m: 1, M Wouda (Holl) 2:11.57; 2, Kruppa 2:15.89; 3, A Turner (Ger) 2:16.28. Butterfly: 50m: 1, Scherer 23.97; 2, J Kerzer (Holl) 24.27; 3, D Silantiev (Ukr) 24.32. 200m: 1, Silantiev 1:55.81; 2, P Monteiro (Br) 1:57.74; 3, T Rupprath (Ger) 1:59.30. Individual medley: 100m: M Wouda 55.31; 2, D Carlsson (Swe) 56.05; 3, Abernethy 56.32. 400m: 1, Wouda 4:16.68; 2, Carlsson 4:19.15; 3, Turner 4:21.17. Women: Freestyle: 50m: 1, K Meissner (Ger) 25.41; 2, S Osygus (Ger) 25.55; 3, A Postma (Holl) 26.00. 200m: 1, C Poll (C Rica) 2:02.79; 2, M Dodd (Aus) 2:03.08; 3, L Striani (It) 2:04.68. 800m: 1, Poll 8:42.64; 2, K Vlieghuis (Holl) 8:44.52; 3, P Oldmoto (Br) 9:09.88. Backstroke: 50m: 1, A Buschchulte (Ger) 28.63; 2, R Maracineanu (Fr) 29.8; 3, L Crespo (Br) 30.14. 200m: 1, Buschchulte 2:12.88; 2, L Azevedo (Br) 2:19.69; 3, C Nakama (Br) 2:20.50. Breaststroke: 100m: 1, P Comini (Br) 1:12.59; 2, E Borgo (Br) 1:13.73; 3, G Miret (Arg) 1:15.98. Butterfly: 100m: 1, Y Hlavacova (Cz) 1:01.13; 2, M P Pereyra (Arg) 1:03.59; 3, N Yakovleva (Russ) 1:04.38. Individual medley: 200m: 1, Y Klochkova (Ukr) 2:15.66; 2, Hlavacova 2:16.94; 3, Yakovleva 2:25.65.

TABLE TENNIS

BATH: English national championships: Men: Singles: Third round: M Syed (Berks) bt K Satchell (Wilts) 21-8, 21-9, 21-11; A Eden (Lancs) bt J Sugrue (Middlesex) 21-13, 21-5, 21-10; D Blake (Surrey) bt G Herbert (Berks) 21-13, 21-18, 14-21, 21-16; A Perry (Devon) bt S Slater (Staffs) 21-11, 21-12, 25-23. Quarter-finals: Syed bt Eden 21-11, 21-13, 21-16; Perry bt Blake 21-19, 21-16, 23-21. T Young (Berks) bt J Taylor (Lancs) 21-16, 21-16, 21-17; D Douglas (Warwickshire) bt C Prean (I-o-W) 21-19, 21-9, 18-21, 23-21. Women: Singles: Third round: H Lower (Staffs) bt J Barraclough (Devon) 21-13, 21-18, 21-13; G Schwartz (Berks) bt S Roden (Warwicks) 21-19, 21-14, 18-21, 21-9; L Radford (Essex) bt L Lowe (Suffolk) 21-11, 21-13, 21-15; N Deaton (Derbys) bt S Ruocco (Essex) 21-9, 21-12, *21-14; K Owolabi* (Middlesex) bt T Russ (Notts) 21-8, 21-19, 20-22, 21-14; L Thornton (Lancs) bt M Cohen (Wilts) 21-12, 21-13, 17-21, 21-8; A Holt (Lancs) bt T Davies (Essex) 21-11, 21-8, 21-10.

TENNIS

ROTTERDAM: Rotterdam world indoor tournament: Semi-finals: J Siemerink (Holl) bt R Krajicek (Holl) 6-4, 4-6, 6-4; T Johansson (Swe) bt B Steven (NZ) 6-3, 7-5. Final: Siemerink bt Johansson 7-6, 6-2.

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona: Franklin Templeton Classic: Quarter-finals: S Schalken (Holl) bt A Costa (Sp) 6-3, 6-4; J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 7-5, 7-6; T Haas (Ger) bt S Larsau (Can) 6-4, 6-1; A Agassi (US) bt J-M Gambill (US) 6-3, 7-6. Semi-finals: Stoltenberg bt Schalken (Holl) 6-3, 6-2; Agassi bt Haas 6-2, 6-1.

INDIAN WELLS: California: Evert Cup: First round: A Sugiyama (Japan) bt K-A Guse (Aus) 6-3 6-3; B Paulus (Austria) bt Y Basuki (Indo) 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; J Kruger (SA) bt R McQuillan (Aus) 6-0, 1-6, 7-5; S Farina (It) bt S Kleinova (Cz) 6-0, 6-2; F Labat (Arg) bt L Neiland (Lat) 6-2, 3-6, 6-1; Li Fang (China) bt O Barabanschikova (Bela) 6-4, 6-1; R Dragomir (Rom) bt C Black (Zim) 6-3, 6-3; T Tanasugarn (Thai) bt M Sanchez-Lorenzo (Sp) 6-1, 4-6, 7-5; S Pitkowski (Fr) bt A Fusai (Fr) 6-4, 6-3; T Panova (Russ) bt K Boogert (Holl) 6-4, 6-1; C Rubin (US) bt E Likhovtseva (Russ) 3-6, 6-3, 7-6; A Frazier (US) bt F Lubiani (It) 6-4, 6-1; N Sawamatsu (Japan) bt M Lucic (Cro) 6-2, 4-6, 6-3; S Cacic (US) bt C Cristea (Rom) 6-1, 6-1; J Halard-Decugis (Fr) bt A Carlsson (Swe) 6-0, 6-2; N Zvereva (Bela) bt S Jeyaseelan (Can) 6-2, 6-4; A Kournikova (Russ) bt A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) 3-6, 6-4, 6-0; S Testud (Fr) bt M Serna (Sp) 6-1, 6-1; D van Roost (Bel) bt C Morariu (US) 6-1, 6-3; M Babel (Ger) bt B Schultz-McCarthy (Holl) 6-7, 6-3, 7-6; A Miller (US) bt S Taylor (US) 6-1, 6-1; M Alejandra Vento (Ven) bt K Kunce (Aus) 6-3, 6-4; T Snyder (US) bt L Osterloh (US) 7-5, 6-0; B Schett (Austria) bt R Grande (It) 6-7, 6-3, 7-6. Second round: S Graf (Ger) bt Tanasugarn 6-4, 6-0; M Hingis (Switz) bt Pitkowski 6-2, 6-1; I Spirlea (Rom) bt Li 7-5, 6-2; L Davenport (US) bt Frazier 6-3, 6-1; Cacic bt N Tauziat (Fr) 1-6, 6-2, 7-5; V Williams (US) bt Farina 6-3, 6-1; Zvereva bt Sawamatsu 6-4, 6-3.

RUGBY UNION

Five Nations Championship

France 18 Ireland 16
France: Tries: Bernat-Salles, Ibañez. Con: Lamaison. Pens: Lamaison 2. Ireland: Try: Hickie. Con: Elwood. Pens: Elwood 3.
(at Stade de France, Paris)

Wales 19 Scotland 13
Wales: Try: Proctor. Con: A Thomas. Pens: *A Thomas 3, N Jenkins. Scotland:* Tries: Cronin, Townsend. Pen: Chalmers
(at Wembley)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	3	0	0	93	49	6
England	2	1	0	1	77	50	2
Wales	2	1	0	1	45	73	2
Scotland	3	1	0	2	46	86	2
Ireland	2	0	0	2	32	35	0

Allied Dunbar Premiership

First division

Harlequins 41 Richmond 12
Harlequins: Tries: O'Leary 2, Davison, Lacroix, Mensah. Cons: Lacroix 5. Pens: Lacroix 2. Richmond: Tries: A Davies, R Hutton. Con: A Davies. Att: 2,500.

Leicester 15 Northampton 15
Leicester: Tries: Cockerill, Joiner. Con: Stransky. Pen: Stransky. Northampton: Pens: Grayson 4. Dropped goal: Grayson.

Yesterday

Bristol 18 Bath 22
Bristol: Try: Burke. Con: Burke. Pens: Burke 3. Bath: Tries: Nicol, Perry, Ubogu. *Cons: Callard 2. Pen: Callard. Att: 5,271*

Saracens 33 Wasps 27
Saracens: Tries: Olsen, Singer, penalty try. Cons: Lynagh 3. Pens: Lynagh 4. Wasps: Tries: Greenstock, Sampson, penalty try. Cons: Rees 3. Pens: Rees 2. Att: 12,332.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saracens	14	13	0	1	393	228	26
Newcastle	11	11	0	0	355	181	22
Bath	12	9	0	3	366	242	18
Leicester	13	8	1	4	356	270	17
Northampton	14	6	1	7	294	252	13
Gloucester	13	6	1	6	286	319	13
Harlequins	14	6	0	8	341	401	12
Sale	13	5	1	7	370	349	11
Richmond	14	5	0	9	312	305	10
Wasps	12	4	0	8	274	348	8
London Irish	13	2	0	11	224	430	4
Bristol	15	2	0	13	254	510	4

LEADING SCORERS: 210: M Lynagh (Saracens; 5 tries, 28 conversions, 42 penalty goals, 1 dropped goal) 165: J Stransky (Leicester; 2t, 22c, 36pg, 1dg) 159: G Rees (Wasps; 1t, 20c, 37pg, 1dg) 148: P Burke (Bristol; 2t, 20c, 31pg, 2dg), M Mapletoft (Gloucester; 3t, 19c, 31pg, 1dg). Tries: 10: T Beim (Sale). 8: J Naylor (Newcastle), D O'Leary (Harlequins). 7: G Armstrong (Newcastle), D Chapman (Richmond).

Second division

Blackheath 13 Bedford 37
Blackheath: Try: Cooke. Con: Mason. Pens: Mason 2. Bedford: Tries: Whetstone 2, Crabb, Forster, Underwood. Cons: Rayer 3. Pens: Rayer 2.

***Coventry* 41 *Waterloo* 33**
Coventry: Tries: J Mitchell 3, Gallagher, Horrobin, Smallwood. Con: Brown. Pens: Brown, Harris. Dropped goal: Gallagher. Waterloo: Tries: Blyth 2, Hackney, Tommen. Cons: Griffiths 2. Pens: Griffiths 3

Exeter 8 Rotherham 33
Exeter: Try: Barrow. Pen: Fabian. Rotherham: Tries: Aucan, Bunting, Dawson, *Schmid, Umaga. Cons: Binns 4*

Wakefield 20 Orrell 26
Wakefield: Tries: Scully, Wilson, K Yates. Con: G Miller. Pen: G Miller. Orrell: Tries: M Oliver, Trivella. Cons: Verbickas 2. Pens: Verbickas 4

POSTPONED: Fylde v Moseley.

Yesterday

***London Scottish* 31 *West Hartlepool* 17**
London Scottish: Tries: Cameron, French, Todd. Cons: Cameron 2. Pens: Cameron 4. West Hartlepool: Tries: Benson, Connolly, Nu'ualita. Con: Belgian

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bedford	16	16	0	0	592	233	32
L Scottish	17	11	1	5	425	325	23
Rotherham	17	10	0	7	435	314	20
Orrell	17	10	0	7	414	323	20
W Hartlepool	16	10	0	6	413	329	20
Coventry	17	9	1	7	336	418	19
Waterloo	17	9	0	8	430	332	18
Moseley	16	8	0	8	331	321	16
Blackheath	17	6	0	11	359	441	12
Exeter	17	5	0	12	255	417	10
Wakefield	17	4	0	13	298	411	8
Fylde	16	1	0	15	201	559	2

LEADING SCORERS: 235: M Rayer *(Bedford; 5 tries, 48 conversions, 38 penalty goals)* 201: L Griffiths (Waterloo 27c, 49pg) 196: S Vile (West Hartlepool; 6t, 23c, 38pg, 2 dropped goals). 193: S Binns (Rotherham; 6t, 26c, 36pg, 1dg). 135: J Fabian (Exeter; 2t, 13c, 33pg). Tries: 15: B Whetstone (Bedford) 13: J Clarke (Blackheath) 12: J Forster (Bedford) 11: D O'Mahony (Moseley)

Jewson National League

First division

Leeds 44 London Welsh 5
Leeds: Tries: Clayton 2, Mathias 2, Radacanu 2, Stephens 2. Cons: Tupulotu 2. London Welsh: Try: Roskell

Morley 28 Harrogate 8
Morley: Tries: Navalura 2, Armitage, Tulloch. Con: Standavan. Pens: Standavan 2. Harrogate: Try: McLaren. Pen: James

Nottingham 22 Wharfedale 20
Nottingham: Tries: Bygrave, Holland. Pens: C Atkinson 4. Wharfedale: Tries: Vyvyan 2. Cons: Mounsey 2. Pens: Mounsey 2.

***Reading* 7 *Rosslyn Park* 14**
Reading: Try: Graham. Con: Dance. Rosslyn Park: Tries: Maddock, McCormick. Cons: Maddock 2

Rugby 22 Otley 7
Rugby: Tries: Bishop, Morgan, Saunders, Vaega. Con: Quantrill. Otley: Try: penalty try. Con: Rutledge

Worcester 41 Newbury 22
Worcester: Tries: Holford 3, Jenner 2, Baxter. Cons: Le Bas 4. Pen: Le Bas. Newbury: Tries: Davies, Duke, Phillips. Cons: Grecian 2. Pen: Grecian.

POSTPONED: Liverpool St Helens v Lydney

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worcester	22	20	0	2	844	271	40
Leeds	22	18	1	3	693	343	37
L Welsh	21	16	1	4	657	383	33
Rugby	20	16	0	4	576	326	32
Newbury	20	11	1	8	522	411	23
Nottingham	22	11	0	11	425	500	22
Otley	21	9	1	11	351	535	19
Reading	21	9	0	12	471	542	18
Rosslyn Park	20	8	1	11	341	432	17
Wharfedale	21	6	3	12	379	535	15
Liverpool St H	21	7	1	13	340	566	15
Harrogate	21	4	1	16	417	551	9
Lydney	21	4	0	17	284	436	8
Morley	21	3	0	18	272	741	6

LEADING SCORERS: 275: S Tuipulotu (Leeds, 10 tries, 45 conversions, 45 penalty goals). 220: C Raymond (London Welsh; 6t, 50c, 29pg, 1 dropped goal) 212: C Atkinson (Nottingham; 2t, 23c, 53pg). 203: A Mounsey (Wharfedale; 4t, 24c, 45pg). Tries: 22: N Baxter (Worcester) 15: C Davies (Newbury). 14: J Jenner (Worcester)

Second division north

Aspatria	37	Lichfield	8
Birmingham/S	18	Preston G	10
Kendal	27	Manchester	21
Sandal	31	Winnington Park	15
Walsall	48	Sedgley Park	36

POSTPONED: Nuneaton v Hinckley; Sheffield v Stourbridge

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birmingham	21	19	0	2	671	257	38
Manchester	21	16	2	3	798	401	34
Kendal	21	14	2	5	512	301	30
Sedgley Park	21	11	2	8	522	457	24
Preston G	21	11	1	9	420	370	23
Sandal	21	12	1	8	412	417	23
Stourbridge	20	10	0	10	478	462	20
Sheffield	20	9	1	10	435	388	19
Walsall	21	9	1	11	453	556	19
Nuneaton	20	9	0	11	299	381	18
Aspatria	21	9	0	12	425	622	18
Hinckley	20	5	1	14	314	542	11
Winnington P	21	3	0	18	343	602	6
Lichfield	21	2	1	18	243	569	5

Second division south

Barking	*19*	*Esher*	3
Camberley	24	Bridgwater	14
Havant	23	Clifton	8
Henley	13	Cheltenham	7
Met Police	20	Weston-s-Mare	33
Plymouth	34	Redruth	33
Tabard	9	North Walsham	6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Camberley	21	19	0	2	659	303	38
Barking	21	17	0	4	683	352	34
Henley	20	16	0	4	550	305	32
Esher	21	14	0	7	511	361	28
Tabard	21	12	0	9	455	405	24
Cheltenham	21	11	1	9	495	427	23
Weston-s-M	21	10	0	11	428	460	20
N Walsham	21	9	0	12	338	336	18
Bridgwater	21	9	0	12	437	566	18
Redruth	21	8	0	13	542	474	16
Clifton	21	8	0	13	356	510	16
Havant	20	6	1	13	275	499	13
Plymouth	20	4	0	16	364	620	8
Met Police	20	1	0	19	252	707	2

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: First division: *Askeans 0 Guildford and Godalming* 67; Charlton Park 18 Old Colfeians 12; Norwich 5 Staines 17; Ruislip 8 Wimbledon 22; Southend 17 Sutton and Epsom 39; Thanet Wanderers 51 Old Mid-Whitgiftians 25; Thurrock 12 Basingstoke 25

SOUTH WEST: First division: Bracknell 33 Maidenhead 5; Gloucester Old Boys 38 Barnstaple 12; Matson 19 Berry Hill 3; *Penzance-Newlyn 34 Stroud 8; Torquay 32* St Ives 19.

MIDLANDS: First division: Banbury 35 Leighton Buzzard 16; Barkers Butts 17 Westleigh 5; Belgrave 12 Syston 0; Broadstreet 21 Stoke-on-Trent 21; Burton 20 Kenilworth 18; Wolverhampton 0 Whitchurch 67.

THWAITES NORTH: First division: Bridlington 15 Tynedale 33; Broughton Park 37 Wigton 18; Doncaster 11 Middlesbrough 17; New Brighton 21 Stockton 9.

AIB League

Second division

Skerries 9 Sunday's Well 14

CLUB MATCH: Cambridge University 84 Kanton University (Japan) 23.

Super 12 tournament

Canterbury 33 NSW 12
Canterbury Crusaders: Tries: Matson, Gardiner, Marshall. Cons: Mehrtens 3. Pens: Mehrtens 4. *New South Wales Waratahs:* Pens: Burke 4.
(at Lancaster Park, Christchurch)

ACT 34 Otago 26
Australian Capital Territory Brumbies: Tries: Larkham 2, Jaques, Mortlock. Cordingly. Cons: Knox 3. Dropped goal: Kafer. Otago Highlanders: Tries: *Carrington, Fili. Cons:* Culhane 2. Pens: Culhane 4.
(in Canberra)

Northern B 19 Wellington 37
Northern Bulls: Tries: Steyn, Brookes, Van der Walt. Cons: Smith 2. Wellington Hurricanes: Tries: Cullen, Maka, Allen, Leaupepe. Cons: Preston 4. Pens: Preston 3
(at Loftus Versfeld, Pretoria)

Coastal S 32 Western S 17
Coastal Sharks: Tries: Teichmann 2, Brosnihan, penalty try. Cons: Honiball 3. Pens: Honiball 2. Western Stormers: Tries: Muir, Van der Linde. Cons: Koen 2. Dropped goal: Koen.
(at King's Park, Durban)

Golden Cats 37 Auckland 38
Golden Cats: Tries: Van der Walt 2, Le Roux, Lubbe, Smith. Cons: Le Roux 2, Smith. Pens: Smith, Le Roux. Auckland Blues: Tries: Clarke, M Jones, Vidiri, Brown, penalty try. Cons: Cashmore 2. Pens: Cashmore 3.
(at Ellis Park, Johannesburg)

Queensland 25 Waikato 28
Queensland Reds: Tries: Smith, Flatley, Horan. Cons: Flatley 2. Pens: Flatley 2. Waikato Chiefs: Tries: Randle, Cooper, Raihana. Cons: Cooper, McDonald. Pens: Foster 2, Cooper.
(at Ballymore, Brisbane)

ITALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool one: Rovigo 21 Treviso 52; Roma 35 Petrarca-Padova 18; Milan 16 Calvisano 24. Pool two: Livorno 19 San Dona 18; Piacenza 19 L'Aquila 19, Bologna 6 Sammme Oro 18.

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULTS: A international matches: France 30 Ireland 30 (in Quimber), Wales 10 Scotland 18 (at Rodney Parade, Newport). Under-21 international matches: France 35 Ireland 11 (in La Rochelle), Wales 3 Scotland 10 (at BSC, Newport)

RUGBY LEAGUE

First division

Dewsbury 50 Keighley 12
Dewsbury Rams: Tries: Bramald 3, Eaton 2, Bailey, Boothroyd, Haigh, Williamson. Goals: Eaton 7. Keighley Cougars: Tries: Billy, Mark Foster, Larder. Att: 1,416.

Leigh 20 Wakefield 32
Leigh Centurions: Tries: Bowker, Fairclough, Hudspith, Ingram. Goals: O Loughlin 2. Wakefield Trinity: Tries: Whakarau 2, Wray 2, Hughes, Rika. Goals: Casey 4. Att: 1,530

Rochdale 24 Featherstone 34
Rochdale Hornets: Tries: Maher 2, Lowe, Pachniuk. Goals: Dixon 4. Featherstone Rovers: Tries: Collins 2, Baker, Handley, Horne, Swinson. Goals: Fallins 5. Att: 916.

Whitehaven 14 Hull KR 24
Whitehaven Warriors: Tries: Lewthwaite 2. Kiddie. Goal: Hetherington. Hull Kingston Rovers: Tries: McCracken 2, Dixon, P Fletcher, Gene. Goals: M Fletcher 2. Att: 1,402.

Widnes 32 Hunslet 26
Widnes Vikings: Tries: Bloem, Cunningham, Manihera, P Smith, Wilson. Goals: Howell 6. Hunslet Hawks: Tries: Campbell, Clarke, S Ellis, Mansson, Smales. Goals: S Ellis 2, Smales. Att: 2,641

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull KR	4	4	0	0	118	43	8
Wakefield	3	3	0	0	70	52	6
Swinton	3	2	0	1	92	56	4
Dewsbury	3	2	0	1	104	72	4
Hunslet	3	2	0	1	98	69	4
Whitehaven	4	2	0	2	97	91	4
Featherstone	4	2	0	2	91	96	4
Widnes	4	2	0	2	84	96	4
Rochdale	4	1	0	3	89	108	2
Keighley	4	0	0	4	54	125	0
Leigh	4	0	0	4	72	161	0

CLUB MATCH: Cancelled: Oldham v London Broncos.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Askam v Saddleworth. Egremont v Heworth. First division: Shaw Cross 6 Skirlaugh 14. Second division: London Students 0 Eccles 34; York Acorn 22 Dewsbury Moor 16. Postponed: Crosfields v New Earswick, Featherstone Amateur v Siddal, Ovenden v Normanton.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	0	85	fair	varied	art	cloud	-4	7/3
(Some good skiing available: dusting of new snow)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	75	240	good	varied	good	snow	-1	8/3
(Snow falling heavily at last)								
Flaine	45	210	good	powder	good	snow	-1	8/3
(60cm fresh snow: fabulous conditions)								
ITALY								
Livigno	55	155	good	powder	good	fair	3	8/3
(Great skiing on new snow: still some worn spots)								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	10	215	good	powder	worn	snow	-2	8/3
(Conditions improving with new snow)								
Klosters	5	140	good	powder	fair	cloud	5	8/3
(Fresh snow: good on mid/upper slopes)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

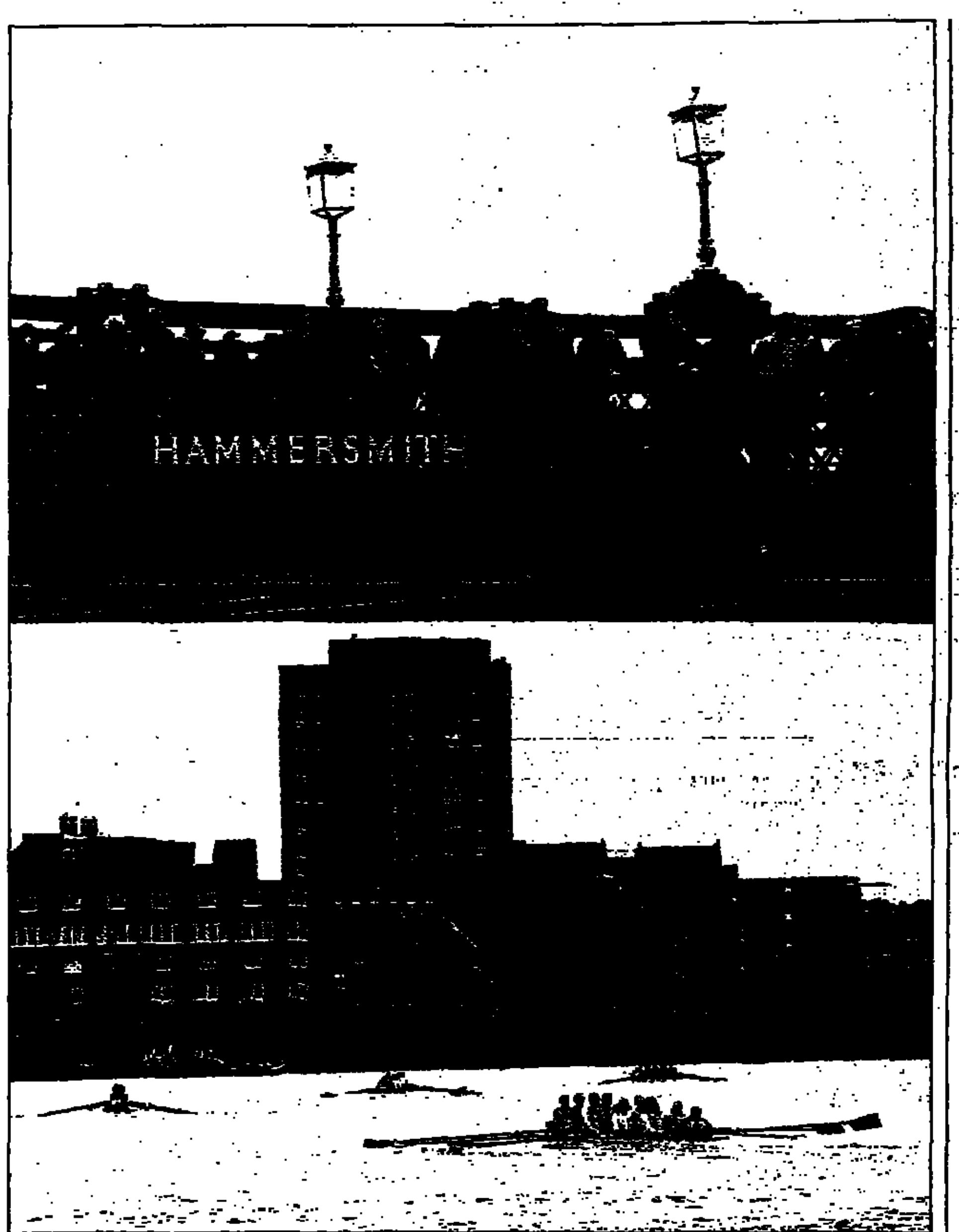
BOXING

RIVERMEAD LEISURE CENTRE, Reading: British and World Boxing Organisation inter-continental super-middleweight championship: D Francis *(Basingstoke) bt M Baker (Sidcup) rsc 12th.* Super-middleweight (6rnds): M Bowen (West Ham) bt P Bonson (Featherstone) pts; (8rnds): O Sheika (US) bt P Wesley (Birmingham) ret 4th. Light-middleweight (4rnds): M Jones (Bristol) bt D McNulty (Bedworth) pts; (4rnds): J Chalk (Nottingham) bt K Kulu (London) pts. Super-bantamweight (6rnds): S Oates (Islington) *bt M Chestnut (Birmingham) pts*

DIEPPE, France: European featherweight championship: D Guerault (Fr, holder) bt P Desavoye (Fr) ko 7th

YOKOHAMA, Japan: World Boxing Council junior-flyweight championship: S Sorjaturong (Thai, holder) bt S Yachiro (Japan) rsc 4th. WBC bantamweight championship: J Tatsuyoshi (Japan, holder) bt J R Sosa (Arg) pts.

PLAZA STADIUM, Mexico: World Boxing Council super-lightweight championship (Vacant): J C Chavez (Mex) drew with M A Gonzalez (Mex). WBC and World Boxing Association strawweight championship: R Lopez (Mex, WBC holder) drew with R Alvarez (Nic, WBA holder).



Spectators try to get a view of crews passing under Hammersmith Bridge in the women's Head of the River race, won by Marlow. Photograph: André Camara

ATHLETICS

MAEBASHI, Japan: Gunma international indoor meeting: Men: 60m: 1, K Streete-Thompson (US) 6.53sec; 2, D Ezinwa (Nigeria) 6.59; *3, D Mitchell (US) 6.63.* 200m: 1, R Griffin (US) 21.25; 2, D Oaks (US) 21.35; 3, T Onoda (Japan) 21.46. 400m: 1, D Mills (US) 46.11; 2, R Machchenko (Russ) 46.37; 3, S Karube (Japan) 46.89. 800m: 1, J Achon (Uga) 1min 48.50sec; 2, B Woodward (US) 1:48.92; 3, J Destino (Haiti) 1:49.02. 60m hurdles: 1, A Dees (US) 7.55sec; 2, A Johnson (US) 7.60; 3, T Raesa (US) 7.64. Pole vault: 1, T Barthel (Nor) 5.70m; 2, J Hartwig (US) 5.60; 3, I Potapovich (Kaz) 5.60. Triple jump: 1, F Agyepong (GB) 16.27m; 2, J Edwards (GB) 16.22; 3, T Komatsu (Japan) 15.99. Shot put: 1, J Godina (US) 21.77m; 2, C J Hunter (US) 20.72; 3, A Begach (Ukr) 19.24. Women: 60m: 1, M Jones (US) 6.95sec; 2, C Ajunwa (Nigeria) 7.22; 3, C Sturrup (Bah) 7.29. 200m: 1, C Sturrup (Bah) 23.54sec; 2, M Arai (Japan) 24.52; 3, A Nagashima (Japan) 24.80. 400m: 1, F Ogunkoya (Nigeria) 51.72sec; 2, L Graham (Jam) 52.16; 3, N Kaiser-Brown (US) 52.75. 800m: 1, T Hodgkinson (NZ) 2min 1.70sec; 2, J Henner (US) 2:05.24; 3, A Arai (Japan) 2:07.86. 60m hurdles: 1, C Dickey (US) 7.97sec; 2, M Morrison (US) 8.14; 3, A Kirkland (US) 8.20. High jump: 1, V Styopina (Ukr) 1.92m; 2, A Bradburn-Spengler (US) 1.90; 3, *M Imai* (Japan) 1.88. Long jump: 1, C Ajunwa (Nigeria) 6.78m; 2, E Shekhovtsova (Ukr) 6.71; 3, S Williams (US) 6.66. Shot put: 1, L Myong Sun (S Kor) 17.56m; 2, V Althouse (US) 17.55; 3, Y Juan (China) 17.31.

SINDELFINGEN, Germany: Indoor meeting: Men: 60m: 1, T Montgomery (US) 6.55sec; 2, J Gardener (GB) 6.58; 3, K *Brokenburr (US) 6.59. 200m: 1, R Clay (US)* 20.68; 2, S Ossovitch (Ukr) 20.71. 800m: 1, I Komar (Est) 1min 47.18sec; 2, M Everett (US) 1:47.21. 1,500m: 1, W Tanui (Ken) 3:37.58; 2, L Rotich (Ken) 3:38.19; 3, A Diaz (Sp) 3:38.44. 3000m: 1, J Mayock (GB) 7:50.10; 2, A Garcia (Sp) 7:50.47; 3, A Ezzine (Mor) 7:52.73. 60m hurdles: 1, M Crear (US) 7.38sec; 2, D Ross (US) 7.49. *High jump:* 1, C Lefrancois (Can) 2.24m. Pole Vault: 1, S Hennig (US) 5.73m; 2, D Ecker (Ger) 5.73; 3, T Lobinger (Ger) 5.68. Triple vault: 1, Y Quesada (Cuba) 17.43m. 2, L Carter (US) 17.20; 3, J Romaine (Dom Rep) 17.01. Women: 60m: 1, C Opara (Nigeria) 7.14sec; 2, C Gans (US) 7.16; 3, P Pendareva (Bul) 7.17. 200m: 1, S Goncharenko (Russ) 22.84; 2, M Paschke (Ger) 22.94. 800m: 1, L Vriesde (Surinam) 2:00.63; 2, L Formanova (Cz) 2:00.64; 3, J Varga (Hun) 2:02.05. 1500m: 1, T Kiesl (Austria) 4min 9.59sec; 2, O Komiagine (Russ) 4:10.24. 2,000m: 1, G Szabo (Rom) 5min 30.53sec (World record). High jump: 1, M Iagar (Rom) 1.92m; 2, A Astafei (Ger) 1.89. Pole vault: 1, S Dragila (US) 4.48m (World record); 2, D Bartova (Cz) 4.48

CROSS COUNTRY: San Vittore Olona, Italy: IAAF World Cross Challenge: Men: 11km: 1, P Tergat (Kenya) 34min 37sec; 2, H Ramaala (SA) 34:42; 3, M Bett (Kenya) 34:45; 4, A Chimuloko (Zimbabwe) 34:55. 5, D Tadese (Ethiopia) 35:07; 6, R Stalko (Slovakia) 35:16. Other: 12, A Passey (Bromsgrove & Redditch) 36:13. Leading overall positions: 1, Tergat 89; 2, T Nyariki (Kenya) 85; 3, Chimuloko 73. OTHER: 7, K Cullen (Chelmsford) 53. Women: 5km: 1, M Denboba (Eth) 17:29; 2, B Adere (Eth) 17:32; 3, L Kiplagat (Ken) 17:39. Leading overall positions: 1, Denboba 83pts; 2, J Chepchumba (Kenya) 80; 3, S Barsosio (Kenya) 72. Other: 8, P Radcliffe (Bedford) 60

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leicester Riders 97 Derby Storm 88, Watford Royals 83 Newcastle Eagles 117; Manchester Giants 95 Worthing Bears 57, Birmingham Bullets 87 London Leopards 91; Crystal Palace 89 Chester Jets 99.

	P	W	L	Pts
Leopards	30	24	6	48
Birmingham	27	21	6	42
Sheffield	27	21	6	42
Newcastle	30	21	9	42
London Towers	*29*	*20*	*9*	*40*
Thames Valley	27	18	9	36
Manchester	29	14	15	28
Chester	28	11	17	22
Leicester	28	11	17	22
Derby	28	10	18	20
Worthing	30	7	23	14
Crystal Palace	29	5	24	10
Watford	*30*	*3*	*27*	6

**Does not include last nights matches*

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Friday: Boston 108 Washington 98; Atlanta 115 Denver 94; Charlotte 104 Seattle 98, Utah 122 New Jersey 115; Orlando 91 Cleveland 89 (OT); Philadelphia 80 New *York 71, Minnesota 113 Toronto 91;* Sacramento 98 Vancouver 96; Indiana 101 Golden state 87; Los Angeles Lakers 91 San Antonio 84. Saturday: Miami 94 Dallas 88; Utah 110 Milwaukee 92; Houston 108 Phoenix 89.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	43	19	.694	—
New York	34	25	.576	7½
New Jersey	33	28	.541	9½
Orlando	31	29	.517	11
Washington	31	30	.508	11½
Boston	29	31	.483	13
Philadelphia	21	37	.362	20
Central division				
Chicago	44	16	.733	—
Indiana	42	18	.700	2
Charlotte	37	23	.617	7
Atlanta	35	24	.593	8½
Cleveland	32	28	.533	12
Milwaukee	29	30	.492	14½
Detroit	27	33	.450	17
Toronto	13	46	.220	30½

Western Conference

Midwest division	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	43	16	.729	—
San Antonio	40	20	.667	3½
Minnesota	32	28	.533	11½
Houston	30	30	.500	13½
Vancouver	14	45	.237	29
Dallas	13	46	.413	31
Denver	5	56	.082	39
Pacific division				
Seattle	45	15	.750	—
LA Lakers	41	18	.695	3½
Phoenix	39	21	.650	6
Portland	34	24	.586	10
Sacramento	26	36	.419	20
Golden State	13	47	.417	32
LA Clippers	12	47	.403	32½

GOLF

DOHA: Qatar Masters: Leading final scores (GB and Ire unless stated): 270: A Coltart 68, 70, 65, 67. 272: P Sjoland (Swe) 70, 66, 67, 69; A Sherborne 69, 64, 68, 71. 273: V Phillips 70, 71, 66, 66. 274: R Goosen (SA) 70, 72, 66, 66; D Carter 69, 75, 64, 66; R Muntz (Holl) 72, 68, 66, 68. 276: P Quinci (Switz) 69, 66, 71, 70. 277: R Wessels (SA) 69, 70, 70, 68; D Clarke 73, 67, 69, 68, P-U Johansson (Swe) 72, 70, 67, 68; I Woosnam 72, 65, 69, 71. 278: J Townsend (US) 69, 63, 74, 67; M A Jimenez (Sp) 72, 67, 69, 70; A Forsbrand (Swe) 67, 69, 72, 70; S Struver (Ger) 72, 68, 68, 70. 279: P Harrington 74, 70, 67, 68; A Cabrera (Arg) 71, 70, 69, 69; J M Olazábal (Sp) 71, 69, 69, 70; R Drummond 69, 70, 68, 72. 280: A Cejka (Ger) 72, 71, 69, 68; M Roe 70, 73, 68, 69; I Garbutt 69, 71, 69, 71; L Westwood 73, 70, 66, 71; D Howell 73, 65, 69, 73; P McGinley 70, 69, 68, 73. 281: D Robertson 73, 71, 70, 67; F Roca (Sp) 71, 72, 69, 69; P Mitchell 72, 72, 68, 69; M Davis 75, 69, 67, 70; M Reale (It) 69, 69, 72, 71; P Eales 71, 71, 68, 71; P Broadhurst 73, 67, 69, 72; J van de Velde (Fr) 73, 70, 66, 72. 282: C Whitelaw (SA) 71, 70, 71, 70; H P Thuel (Ger) 70, 70, 72, 70; M Tunnicliff 69, 69, 73, 71; S Ballesteros (Sp) 72, 70, 68, 72; D Gilford 69, 71, 67, 75. 283: J Haeggman (Swe) 71, 71, 71, 70; R Karlsson (Swe) 74, 69, 70, 70; I Garrido (Sp) 72, 71, 70, 70; P Walton 71, 67, 73, 72; M A Martin (Sp) 70, 70, 71, 72; S Tinning (Den) 70, 68, 72, 73; D Cooper 69, 71, 70, 73; M Jonzon (Swe) 74, 67, 68, 74.

JOHANNESBURG: South African Players' championship: Leading final scores (SA unless stated): 275: M McNulty (Zim) 67, 69, 68, 71. 278: W Abery 71, 69, 71, 67; S Dunlap (US) 74, 65, 71, 68. 279: N Henning 69, 71, 72, 67; J Kingston 73, 68, 70, 67; M Gortana 72, 72, 68, 67; B Vaughan 73, 67, 71, 68; B Pappas 72, 68, 71, 68; A Pitts (US) 73, 69, 69, 68; B Liddle 72, 72, 67, 68.

BAGAN, Myanmar: Asian PGA tournament: Leading final scores: 280: T Hussain (Pak) 70, 73, 68, 69. 281: Z Lianwei (China) 71, 70, 71, 69. 282: T Purdy (US) 72, 70, 69, 71. 284: V Bhandari (India) 71, 69, 71, 74. 285: C Charnock (US) 73, 76, 68, 68; T Sriroj (Thai) 70, 68, 75, 72.

CANBERRA: Tour Championship: Leading final scores (Aus unless stated): 278: M Goggin 66, 68, 71, 73; B King 70, 68, 69, 73; (Goggin won on first play-off hole). 280: G Chalmers 67, 69, 72, 72; P O'Malley 72, 68, 70, 70; P Senior 67, 70, 71, 72. 281: M Long (NZ) 71, 70, 71, 69; S Alker (NZ) 68, 73, 71, 69. 282: D Ecob 67, 71, 74, 70; L Parsons 70, 69, 70, 73; S Tait 71, 67, 71, 73. Other scores: 292: A Edwards (Zim) 73, 69, 74, 76; D Ayers (US) 70, 69, 78, 75.

MIAMI: Doral-Ryder Open: Leaders after three rounds (US unless stated): 207: M Bradley 71, 66, 70. 209: S Cink 70, 68, 71. 210: W Maylair 72, 70, 68; M Brisky 68, 71, 71; T Woods 70, 69, 71. 211: P H Horgan III 71, 70, 70; R Tway 68, 71, 72; V Singh (Fiji) 71, 68, 72; R Mediate 71, 67, 73; J Cook 71, 66, 74. 212: J Sindelar 71, 69, 72; L Mattiace 73, 67, 72; R Floyd 71, 68, 73; J Huston 70, 69, 73; J Furyk 77, 62, 73; S Hoch 72, 66, 74. Other scores: 216: N Faldo (GB) 72, 70, 74. 218: N Price (Zim) 71, 70, 77. 219: A Lyle (GB) 71, 74, 74.

ABIDJAN: Ivory Coast Open: Leading final scores (GB and Ire unless stated): 281: J Mellor 72, 71, 72, 66. 284: J Sota (Sp) 71, 69, 74, 70; F Lindgren (Swe) 70, 70, 71, 73. 287: J Robinson 72, 71, 72, 72. 288: N Briggs 75, 69, 72, 73; R Wragg 76, 69, 75, 69. 289: F Lamare (Fr) 72, 71, 72, 74. 290: D R Jones 71, 70, 76, 73; S Hansen (Den) 76, 74, 67, 73; W Bennett 69, 72, 77, 72.

CRICKET

Fifth one-day international

New Zealand v Zimbabwe

AUCKLAND (New Zealand won toss): New Zealand beat Zimbabwe by two runs

NEW ZEALAND

L G Howell c Strang b Rennie	1
N J Astle c G Whittall b G Flower	62
*S P Fleming b A Whittall	27
M J Horne c Rennie b Strang	11
C D McMillan c Wishart b Strang	3
C L Cairns b A Whittall	0
C Z Harris not out	54
†A C Parore c A Flower b Viljoen	7
D J Nash c Rennie b Strang	28
D L Vettori c A Flower b Streak	21
S B Doull not out	5
Extras (lb 4, w 8)	12
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	231

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-75, 3-88, 4-96, 5-96, 6-121, 7-135, 8-181, 9-213.

BOWLING: Streak 5-0-38-1; Rennie 5-0-45-1; Strang 10-1-44-3; A Whittall 10-1-24-2; Viljoen 10-0-35-1; G Flower 10-0-41-1.

ZIMBABWE

G W Flower c Fleming b McMillan	55
C B Wishart b Cairns	6
M W Goodwin b Harris	27
†A Flower b Vettori	27
*A D R Campbell c Astle b Vettori	30
G J Whittall c Horne b Doull	29
D P Viljoen b Vettori	14
H H Streak b Cairns	2
P A Strang run out	23
J A Rennie not out	2
A R Whittall not out	1
Extras (b 4, lb 6, w 2, nb 1)	13
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	229

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-76, 3-106, 4-143, 5-162, 6-180, 7-190, 8-224, 9-228

BOWLING: Doull 7-1-54-1; Cairns 10-0-43-2; Nash 7-0-26-0; Vettori 10-1-29-3; Harris 9-0-42-1; McMillan 7-0-25-1.

New Zealand win series 4-1.

Man of the match: D L Vettori.

Umpires: D B Cowie and D M Quested.

TOUR MATCH: Johannesburg (first day of three): Gauteng 298-7 dec; Sri Lankans 45-1.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (final day of four): Perth: Western Australia 196 and 388-8 dec (R J Campbell 100, J L Langer 101, T M Moody 54 not out), Victoria 157 and 315 (B J Hodge 95, D M Jones 46, D W Fleming 45 not out; M N Atkinson 4-60, S R Cary 4-96). Western Australia beat Victoria by 112 runs. Hobart: New South Wales 332 and 228 (M G Bevan 65; C R Miller 6-75); Tasmania 468-9 dec (J Cox 121, D Marsh 70; D A Freedman 5-77) and 94-1 (D F Hills 43). Tasmania beat New South Wales by nine wickets. Adelaide: Queensland 268 and 349-7 (M L Hayden 101, A Symonds 61 not out, M L Love 44; B Young 5-89); South Australia 302 (J D Siddons 63, C Davies 55) and 241-7. Match drawn.

SUPERSPORT SERIES (second day of four): Kimberley: Natal 379 (D M Benkenstein 96, N C Johnson 54, A G Botha 52; G A Roe 4-98); Griqualand West 134-4 (M I Gidley 55).

PRESIDENT'S CUP (Third day of four) Georgetown: Guyana 450-8 dec (S Chanderpaul 111, C L Lambert 106, C L Hooper 104) and 64-1 dec; Trinidad and Tobago, 211 (S Ragoonath 68; N C *McGarrell 5-61) and 0-0.*

HOCKEY

IPOH, Malaysia: Soltan Azlan Shah international tournament: Fifth place play-off: England 3 Malaysia 2. Third place play-off: South Korea 1 New Zealand 0. Final: Australia 1 Germany 1 (Australia won 10-9 on penalty strokes.)

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Pakistan 0 India 2 (in Karachi).

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Saturday: Havant 1 St Albans 2. Yesterday: Bournville 3 Bluharts 1; Bromley 2 Chelmsford 3; Havant 4 Hull 1; Isca 0 Brooklands 6; Loughborough Students 3 Firebrands 2; Oxford Hawks 0 Hampstead 6; Oxford University 4 Indian Gymkhana 3; Sheffield 2 Gloucester City 1; Surbiton 2 Lewes 2; St Albans 4 Harleston Magpies 2; Warrington 2 Stourport 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brooklands	19	16	1	2	53	22	49
Bournville	19	15	3	1	64	24	48
Surbiton	19	13	3	3	56	26	42
Havant	19	11	5	3	61	30	38
Hampstead ws	18	11	1	6	52	23	34
Chelmsford	19	10	3	6	61	44	33
Bromley	19	9	4	6	44	45	31
Indian Gym	19	9	3	7	50	42	30
Lewes	19	8	6	5	57	57	30
Stourport	19	9	2	8	44	44	29
Sheffield	19	8	3	8	49	47	27
Lough Stu	19	7	5	7	39	36	26
Oxford Univ	19	7	4	8	39	39	25
Harleston M	19	6	3	10	35	44	21
Hull	19	5	4	10	37	48	19
Isca	19	5	4	10	35	52	19
Firebrands	19	4	6	9	31	61	18
St Albans	18	4	3	11	37	55	15
Bluharts	19	4	3	12	33	52	15
Gloucester C	19	4	2	13	26	50	14
Oxford Hawks	19	4	2	13	38	64	14
Warrington	*19*	*3*	*2*	*14*	*34*	*69*	*11*

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Blossomfield 0 Olton and West Warwickshire 8; Coventry and North Warwickshire 5 Bloxwich 1; Edgbaston 2 North Nottinghamshire 1; Khalsa 1 Harborne 3; North Stafford 1 Northampton Saints 1; Nottingham 3 Hampton-in-Arden 1.

ESL SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier division: Bournemouth 0 Beckenham 1; Chichester 6 Purley 2; Eastcote 4 Maidenhead 1; High Wycombe 3 Anchorians 1; Ramgarhia 2 Gore Court 3; Trojans 1 Richmond 2; Tunbridge Wells 2 Fareham 2; Wimbledon 2 Herne Bay 1; Winchester 2 City Of Portsmouth 4; Woking 3 Old Whitgiftians 5. Kent/Sussex: Ashford 1 Sevenoaks 3; B B H C 3 Old Williamsonians 3; Bexley Invicta 3 Eastbourne 2; *Blackheath 4 Tulse Hill* 1; Brighton 1 Lloyd Bank 1; Burnt Ash 1 Worthing 4; Folkestone 6 Mid Sussex 1; Marden Russets 1 Horsham 3; Middleton-Bognor 2 Old Holcombeians 1; Newhaven 0 Old Borderers 3. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: City Of Oxford 3 Bracknell 1; Gerrards Cross 3 Staines 3; Hayes 4 Sunbury 1; Hendon 6 Amersham 0; Lions 4 Ashford 3; Marlow 2 P H C Chiswick 3; Milton Keynes 1 Famham Common 0; Phoenix 3 Richings Park 7; West Hampstead 2 Newbury 5; Wokingham 8 Old Kingstonians 1. Hampshire: Andover 6 Barnes 2; Basingstoke 2 Camberley 1; Blandford 3 Portsmouth 2; Haslemere 0 Epsom 2; London University 5 Goan 1; Old Mid Whitgiftians 1 Spencer 2; Old Cranleighans 10 Dulwich 1; Oxshott 0 Old Georgians 5; Oxted 4 Cheam 1.

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Cambridge City 4 Crostyx 0; Colchester 3 Clacton 3; Ipswich 2 Cambridge University 4; Luton Town 0 Bishop's Stortford 6; Peterborough Tn 7 Sudbury 0. Premier division A: Ipswich and East Suffolk 2 West Herts 3; Norwich City 0 St Ives 2; O Southendian 0 Dereham 2; Redbridge and Ilford 2 Bedford 2; Romford 1 Bury St Edmunds 0.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Chester 6 Ben Rhydding 3; Formby 3 Swalwell 2; Harrogate 2 Norton 2; Sheffield Bankers 1 Durham University 2; Timperley 3 Neston 4; Wigan 2 Southport 3.

WEST OF ENGLAND AND SOUTH WALES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cheltenham 3 Bristol University 2; Clevedon 1 Whitchurch 6; Exeter Univ 2 Weston-super-Mare 0; Swansea 2 Robinsons 1.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: England under-18 3 Beeston 5 (at Milton Keynes).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	13	11	1	1	35	12	34
Chelmsford	13	9	2	2	39	11	29
Canterbury	13	7	4	2	30	18	25
Lough Stu	13	8	1	4	29	25	25
Bradford S	13	4	1	8	17	28	13
Wimbledon	13	3	1	9	16	31	10
Sunderland	13	1	3	9	11	31	6
Bracknell	13	1	3	9	6	26	6

SECOND DIVISION: Sherwood 1 Woking Swifts 1; Bluharts 0 Old Loughtonians 7; Poynton 0 Ealing 1; Aldridge 3 West Witney 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aldridge	13	10	1	2	36	11	31
Loughtonians	13	9	1	3	35	15	28
Woking S	13	8	2	3	21	15	26
Sherwood	13	7	2	4	21	15	23
Ealing	13	5	1	7	15	16	16
Poynton	13	4	2	7	20	24	14
W Witney	13	2	3	8	17	27	9
Bluharts	*13*	*0*	*2*	*11*	*8*	*50*	*2*

WOMEN'S PLATE: Fourth round: Cambridge City 2 Worksop 0; Harrow 0 Deeside Ramblers 3; Lansdown 2 Sevenoaks 1; Lillington Warwick 1 Maidenhead 5; Lincoln Imps 1 North Staffs 5; Reading 1 Bournemouth 0; Sheffield 2 Dulwich 0; Winnington Park 1 Poynton 1.

WOMEN'S WELSH *LEAGUE*: Newport 4 Cardiff Ath 4; Newtown 3 UWIC 0; Penarth 1 Swansea 6; Pontypridd 0 Colwyn Bay 1. Welsh Cup: Quarter-finals: Cardiff Ath 2 UWIC 1; Cwmtawe 8 Chepstow 1; Newtown 3 Colwyn Bay 1; St Fagans 0 Swansea 7.

REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Dereham 1 BSE 2; St Albans 2 Harleston M 1; Sevenoaks 1 Ipswich 1; WGC 0 Cambs C 2. Midlands: Crimson R 3 Pickwick 3; Leicester 0 Hampton 4; Luton 0 Kettering 2. Postponed: Belper v North Staffs. North: Blackburn 1 Sheffield 1; Chester 0 Welton 1; Liv Sefton 5 Leyland M 2; York 1 Winnington Pk 2. South: Dulwich 2 Hampstead 1; Horsham 2 Tulse Hill 1; Maidenhead 1 Reading 2; Winchester 1 Southampton 4; Winchmore Hill 4 Hendon 2. West: Colwall 4 Yate 1; Exmouth 3 Cheltenham 2; Redland 1 Exeter 1; T Vale 1 Leominster 0; St Austell 6 Bournemouth 1.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Saturday: Olton 1 Terraquest 0. Hightown 1; Trojans 3 Slough 3, Ipswich 4 Sutton Coldfield 0; Doncaster 2 Clifton Scottish Life 1. Yesterday: Slough 5 Olton Terraquest 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slough	13	12	1	0	71	21	37
Ipswich	13	8	1	4	31	18	25
Clifton	13	8	1	4	26	20	25
Hightown	13	5	2	6	17	23	17
Olton	13	5	2	6	21	28	17
Sutton	13	3	2	8	19	38	11
Doncaster	13	2	4	7	18	37	10
Trojans	13	1	3	9	18	38	6

FIRST DIVISION: Bradford Swithenbank 2 Loughborough Students 2; Leicester 2 Canterbury 0; Chelmsford Highway 4 Bracknell 0; Sunderland Bedans 2 Wimbledon 0

SCHOOLS SPORT

ATHLETICS: Cheltenham: English Schools cross country championships: Senior boys: 5.4km: 1, S Haughian (Surrey) 21min 58sec; 2, J Ward (South Yorkshire) 22:42; 3, C Livesey (Lancashire) 22:52. Teams: 1, Hampshire 124pts; 2, Surrey 298; 3, Durham 330. Senior girls: 4.97km: 1, C Walsh (Middlesex) 15:40; 2, A Gascoigne (Somerset) 15:42; 3, L Kelly (Cumbria) 16:22. Teams: 1, Northumberland 214; 2, Cheshire 276; 3, Sussex 346. *Intermediate boys: 6.4km:* 1, L McCash (Lancashire) 20:57; 2, M Farah (Middlesex) 21:04; 3, R King (West Yorkshire) 21:14. Teams: 1, Lancashire 164; 2, West Midlands 355; 3, Kent 361. Intermediate girls: 3.88km: 1, L Samuels (Hertfordshire) 13:15; 2, N Coates (Northumberland) 13:22; 3, H Dean (Oxfordshire) 13:23. Teams: 1, Hampshire 291; 2, Middlesex 334; 3, Cambridgeshire 351. Junior boys: 4.8km: 1, A Tshaye (Surrey) 16:40; 2, T Bedford (Hertfordshire) 16:45; 3, J Geary (Leicestershire) 16:49. Teams: 1, Derbyshire 201; 2, Merseyside 288; 3, Northumberland 307. Junior girls: 3.34km: 1, C Birch (Merseyside) 12:59; 2, S Jebert (Cornwall) 13:12; 3, H Lea (Middlesex) 13:21. Teams: 1, Dorset 202; 2, Hertfordshire 263; 3, Northumberland 317.

FOOTBALL: North West Alder Cup: Second round: Salford 1 Oldham 2. Levon Yates Trophy: Quarter-final: Halesowen and Stourbridge 0 Mid and South Warwickshire 3. Goodyear Trophy: Third round: Wolverley 0 Forest Boys 1. Other match: King's, Canterbury 1 Tonbridge 1

RUGBY UNION: Daily Mail Under-19 Plate: Semi-finals: Merchant Taylors, Crosby 26 Lady Manners School 12; RGS Guildford 15 Penwith Coll 9. Other match: Coopers Coborn 29 St Ignatius 10

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RACING

Ladbrokes braces itself for referral of Coral purchase

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

LADBROKES is almost certain to have its controversial £362.7 million purchase of Coral referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC). A formal announcement by the Department of Trade and Industry is imminent — it could be made by the end of this week — after consideration of the deal by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

The expected outcome is a shattering blow for Ladbrokes, which had been confident until late last week of avoiding a referral, and throws into doubt its sale of 134 shops to the Tote for £46.8 million.

Ladbrokes had hoped the decision to offload such a sizeable number of shops to the Tote, after its unconditional purchase of Coral's 833 United Kingdom outlets from Bass on New Year's Eve, would satisfy the Government's competition policy.

However, the sticking point for the OFT is believed to have been the large share of the off-course betting market which the acquisition would have given to Ladbrokes.

The Harrow-based firm, already Britain's biggest bookmakers, has 25.5 per cent of the UK market, but the purchase of Coral would raise that to 36.4 per cent with the remainder taken by William Hill (23.7 per cent), Stanley (4.8 per cent), the Tote (4.7 per cent) and others (30.4 per cent).

While Ladbrokes was more than willing to give undertakings to cover other aspects of the deal — such as its stake in Satellite Information Services or the Bookmakers' Afternoon Greyhound Service — it's 36.4 per cent market share would remain.

From the moment Ladbrokes announced the deal on New Year's Day there has been an avalanche of criticism, claiming it was against the interest of the public and punters and would reduce choice and competition.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary and a keen follower of the Turf, was among the first to voice concern and he made his views known to Margaret Beckett, president of the Board of Trade. A Commons early-day motion attacking the sale was initiated by Alan Meale, another Labour MP with racing interests, as demands grew for a MMC referral.

The OFT is understood to have received a large number of submissions opposing the sale, including one from William Hill, which claimed the deal would reduce choice and competition at national as well as local level, and place Ladbrokes in a dominant position with the opportunity to abuse and eliminate one of only three national bookmakers.

Ladbrokes had relied heavily on a 1989 MMC ruling to refute claims that it would enjoy a near monopoly. When Grand Metropolitan acquired William Hill, the MMC ruled that consumer choice and competition in retail bookmaking was best applied at a local market level. As a result, Ladbrokes had been confident that the OFT would focus on ensuring that competition was maintained "in local markets in accordance with the established criteria".

Ironically, one of the few interested bodies not to object to the Ladbrokes purchase was the British Horseracing Board (BHB) — much to the disgust of many within the sport. Racing's ruling body believed that if the deal was eventually ruled out by Mrs Beckett and Ladbrokes was forced to sell all or part of the Coral empire, the Tote would be left with nothing in terms of extra shops.

Instead, the BHB told the OFT: "The opportunity should be taken, if appropriate, to secure the disposal by Ladbrokes of a manageable number of further outlets to the Tote which, with its pool betting capability as well as its starting price service, can arguably offer more competition than any other operator."

The Tote, which is being revitalised under the chairmanship of Peter Jones, would like to purchase up to another 80 betting shops. However, the Tote, along with Ladbrokes, now faces months of uncertainty before the Government rules whether the Coral sale can go ahead as planned or whether Ladbrokes must sell some or all of the shops.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Kass Alhawa
(1.45 Southwell)

Kass Alhawa won well over six furlongs on the all-weather recently, but should be better suited by today's mile trip. David Chapman's gelding still looks well treated despite a 9lb rise in the handicap.

NB: Mr Magnetic
(4.00 Newton Abbot)



JULIAN HERBERT / ALLSPORT

Bold Dolphin, right, initiates a Saturday treble for Andrew Thornton by landing the Jack O'Newbury Novices' Chase

Cheltenham favours soft option

By Chris McGrath

IN VIEW of the fact that the place is such a perennial drain on the resources of punters, it seems appropriate that Cheltenham should also have a reputation for the greedy consumption of rainfall. Yesterday, however, Edward Gillespie felt able to declare that the going will only be good or softer at this year's Festival, which starts tomorrow week.

The course's managing director, reporting a further nine millimetres of rain over the weekend, said: "We would still be calling it good to soft, soft in some places, and if we were to have a couple of dry days it would become genuine good to soft. But we have got to the stage where we can say that it won't be fast. We'd far rather be worrying about it raining every night, anyway, than whether or not we should be watering."

In the maze of form confronting punters next week, much the clearest signpost is the state of the ground. Fast going would have represented a major flaw in the cases of Istabraq and See More Business, favourites for the Smurfit Champion Hurdle and Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup respectively. Incidentally, connections' insistence that all is well with Istabraq, despite gossip tediously suggesting otherwise, appeared to enjoy powerful corroboration last week when Coral reported that one punter had placed £35,000 in cash on the Irish hope, who is owned by J. P. McManus. Less encouragingly, the rains will present Istabraq with a stern new obstruction in French Holly, who would have been kept to novice company on faster ground.

Dorans Pride, Ireland's leading rival to See More Business, limbered up with a gallop before racing at Leopardstown yesterday. Michael Hourigan's son, Paul, rode him over 1½ miles in the company of Inis Cara. "It was nothing serious, just a bit on the bridle to keep him ticking over," the trainer said.

A similar exercise for The Grey Monk at Kelso on Friday was rather more earnest, as Gordon Richards strives to get him ready in time for next Thursday's race. "He's fine this morning and coming back to himself," Richards said yesterday. "The plan is to go to Cheltenham, but I'd like to give him another racecourse gallop somewhere."

Like so many yards this winter, the Greystoke team has endured a quiet season. The Grey Monk himself has been up to just one race, beating Rough Quest at Haydock before Christmas, and owes his prominence in the betting to ante-post liabilities incurred early in the season. Given his problems, he would ordinarily be a much bigger price, but — if he does make it to the Cotswolds — at least he has every prospect of getting suitably soft ground.

Bond Jnr sparks profitable day for Mitchell

Point-to-point
by Carl Evans

TIM MITCHELL rode four winners at the East Devon meeting on Saturday, proving rather more successful than the Equinare nose clip.

Designed to aid a horse's breathing and thought likely to reduce broken blood vessel problems, it was given its first racecourse airing on the 12-year-old Interpretation in the men's open. However, the gelding pulled up with five fences to jump and the sight of Jamie Jukes's blood-spattered breeches told their own tale.

Victor Dartnall, Interpretation's trainer, refused to dismiss the product, saying: "In hindsight, this may not have been a fair test — using it on this horse in this ground. He doesn't like it this muddy and was always struggling. We'll try it again on another runner, Dance Fever, next week."

The nose clip's inventor, Jakes Branton, a South African living in Britain, was philosophical, adding: "People who know horses are aware that things go wrong. I hope we're not judged on this one run."

While Interpretation was back-pedalling, another horse with medical problems, Bond Jnr, was marching imperiously to success and becoming the first of Mitchell's winning quartet.

Commenting on rumours that a virus was affecting his yard, trainer Richard Barber



Barber: Devon treble

said: "As you can see, this one has a virus, and Earthmover had it when winning yesterday at Newbury. We've had the odd cough but you get that every season and you simply don't run them until they're right."

The same stable then took divisions of the restricted and maiden races with Irbee and Cherokee Chief for owners Paul Barber and John Keighley, but the rider reserved his biggest smile for his final-race success on Knight Of Passion.

This was his first ride for trainer Colin Tizzard, whose son, Joe, was second on the Barber hope. Remember Ridemore. The irony was pure delight for Mitchell, but Tizzard senior said: "We had no idea the horse was good enough to win this — we'd have put Joe up if we had known."

Comedy Gayle took the intermediate in the day's fastest time — Sue Willcock's former eventer must be followed when he tries hunter chasing — while the biggest surprise at the meeting was the victory of Robbie Bee, trained by Anthony Tory's sister, Alison, in the first division of the restricted.

At the Duke Of Beaufort meeting, the Welsh-trained Gunner Boon took the lead in the race to be the season's most successful pointer, making the ladies' open his fourth success so far.

NEWTON ABBOT

THUNDERER

2.00 Calling Wild
2.30 Rainbow Star
3.00 HOLD YOUR RANKS (nap)
3.30 Knightsbridge Scot
4.00 Scotby
4.30 Belmorebruno
5.00 Seef

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.00 TOTE HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,550: 2m 5f 110yd) (6 runners)

101 21/2-11 CALLING WILD 30 (D,G,S) (Hunt & Co Ltd) P Nicholls 8-11-10 Mr J Tizzard (5) [illegible]
102 52-P415 BOB DEVANI 31 (D,G,S) (T Chick) T George 12-11-8 R Johnson 116
103 2U36343 KOO'S PROMISE 11 (D,F,G) (G Warren Ltd) C Popham 7-10-7 Mr O McPhail (5) 118
104 3/4PR51 MASTER MARIO 6 (G) (Mrs M Potter) R Alner 10-10-6 (6ex) A Thornton 114
105 6/12P-4 DARINGLY 16 (F,G) (M Appleby) R Curtis 9-10-6 A Bates (5) –
106 332U-56 SUPER RITCHART 21 (G,S) (Gordon Associates) B Palling 10-10-3 Mr S Durack (5) 91

BETTING: 7-4 Calling Wild, 11-4 Master Mario, 4-1 Koo's Promise, Bob Devani, 12-1 Daringly, 20-1 Super Ritchart.

1997: ORSWELL LAD 8-10-8 N Williamson (10-1) P Hobbs 15 ran

FORM FOCUS Calling Wild beat Capenwray 3l in 9-runner novice handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, soft). Bob Devani 9½l last of 5 to Nethgrity in handicap chase at Catterick (2m 3f, good); previously beat Saleban 11l in 8-runner handicap chase at Plumpton (2m 5f, heavy). Koo's Promise 1½l 3rd of 7 to Capenwray in handicap chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good to firm). Master Mario beat Super Rapier 9l in 16-runner novice handicap chase at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, good). Daringly beaten a distance last of 4 to Dublin Flyer in handicap chase at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good). Super Ritchart 47l 6th of 16 to Gratomi in novice handicap chase at Hereford (2m 3f, good).

CALLING WILD makes plenty of appeal despite top weight

2.30 FLY SKYBUS THE ISLANDS OWN AIRLINE MAIDEN HURDLE
(£1,962: 2m 1f) (12 runners)

201 0-0P ANOTHER BULA 16 (S Howe) H Howe 7-11-5 G Shenkin (7) –
202 06 BLUE BLAZER 18 (J Lowe) R Frost 8-11-5 J Frost 83
203 0621-24 LIMIT THE DAMAGE 41 (S) (F Murphy) Miss V Williams 8-11-5 N Williamson 82
204 0P-006 TARAKHEL 30 (N Smith) N Smith 5-11-5 M Sharratt 48
205 505-U MAZZELMO 6 (Miss E Oats) A Bailey 5-11-0 Gary Lyons –
206 0-P0 PRIDE OF PENNKER 16 (C Caple) A Newcombe 5-11-0 A Thornton 25
207 P0 REITERATE 46 (Miss B Swire) G Balding 5-11-0 B Clifford –
208 PFP KALMOOJID 21 (G Duckhaven Stud) A Barrow 4-10-11 J Harris (7) –
209 358222 RAINBOW STAR 51 (A White) M Pipe 4-10-11 A P McCoy 57+
210 0520 FIVE LIVE 18 (W Reed) S Cole 4-10-6 G Supple (5) 80
211 06 LOLITA 11 (Southern Counties Finance & Leasing) M Pipe 4-10-6 D Fuhrmann 78
212 6 MISTY RAIN 20 (Last Chance Racing) J Spearing 4-10-6 A Maguire [illegible]

BETTING: 7-4 Rainbow Star, 5-2 Limit The Damage, 7-2 Mazzelmo, 10-1 Lolita, 12-1 Misty Rain, 20-1 Blue Blazer Five Live, 25-1 others

1997: JUYUSH 5-11-8 J Osborne (evens fav) J Old 14 ran

FORM FOCUS Blue Blazer 18l 8th of 13 to Sayeh in maiden hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to firm) with Another Bula (levels) pulled up. Limit The Damage 56l 4th of 10 to Innos in novice hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, soft) with Tarakhel (levels) 77l 7th. Tarakhel beaten a distance 6th of 7 to Good Lord Murphy in novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good). Mazzelmo unseated rider in NH flat race at Catterick (2m, good to soft), previously 21l 5th of 16 to Murchan Tyne in NH flat race at Uttoxeter (2m, good). Pride Of Pennker 74l 10th of 13 to Gaitlax in novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good to soft). Reiterate 41l 7th of 10 to Polar Prospect in novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, soft) with Blue Blazer (levels) 58l 9th. Rainbow Star 4l 2nd of 23 to Good Lord Murphy in maiden hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, heavy) with Pride Of Pennker (5lb better off) pulled up. Five Live 46l 11th of 14 to Fighting Times in selling handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to firm), previously 5l 2nd of 14 to Chill Boom in novice claiming hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good) with Kalmoojid (1lb worse off) fell. Lolita 23l 6th to Kathryn's Pet in mares maiden hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good). Misty Rain 32l 6th to Bakkar in novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft)

RAINBOW STAR has Limit The Damage as his main rival

3.00 ISLES OF SCILLY TRAVEL CENTRE HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,448: 2m 110yd) (10 runners)

301 3240360 NORTHERN SADDLER 21 (CD,F,G,S) (IOS Steamship) R Hodges 11-12-0 R Dunwoody 122
302 /U1-315 HOLD YOUR RANKS 47 (C,S) (Mrs C Loze) R Frost 11-11-12 J Frost [illegible]
303 P235433 COURT MASTER 12 (CD,S) (Mrs T Lewis) R Buckler 10-11-6 B Powell [illegible]
304 533110F ASTRAL INVASION 6 (B,D,F,G) (E Wiseman) T Wall 7-11-5 Gary Lyons 163
305 22-6443 WINSPIT 28 (D,F,S) (Mrs J Purdie) R Alner 8-11-0 A Thornton 121
306 P0P3-P5 BENJAMIN LANCASTER 40 (C,D,G,S) (M Griffin) M Griffin 14-11-0 M Griffin (7) 37
307 -360R45 ROVESTAR 24 (B,D,S) (G Barnett) C Popham 7-10-13 Mr O McPhail (5) 125
308 653-P5F WHISTLING BUCK 21 (D,S) (B Llewellyn) B Llewellyn 10-10-11 Mr J L Llewellyn 98
309 /60-683 COOL AS A CUCUMBER 24 (Rathleigh Arms) O Sherwood 7-10-9 M Richards 104
310 55-3430 WONDERFULL POLLY 14 (BF,D,G) (J Olds) P Nicholls 10-10-6 Mr J Tizzard (5) 80

BETTING: 4-1 Court Master, 5-1 Hold Your Ranks, 6-1 Winspit, Cool As A Cucumber, 7-1 Astral Invasion, 8-1 Northern Saddler, Rovestar, Wonderfull Polly, 12-1 others

1997: INDIAN ARROW 9-11-6 C Maude (12-1) M Pipe 14 ran

FORM FOCUS Northern Saddler 32l 11th of 17 to Music Please in handicap chase at Hereford (2m, good). Hold Your Ranks 23l 6th of 14 to Mountain Path in novice handicap chase at Windsor (3m, good to soft); previously beat Red Lighter 5l in 8-runner handicap chase at Newton Abbot (2m 5f 110yd, heavy). Court Master 5¾l 3rd of 11 to Gratomi in handicap chase at Folkestone (2m, good to firm). Winspit 5l 3rd of 11 to Dear Do in handicap chase at Fontwell (2m 2f, good) with Court Master (2lb better off) 5¾l 4th. Benjamin Lancaster 45l 5th of 11 to Lux-U-Frank in handicap chase at Lingfield (3m, good to soft). Rovestar 17l 5th of 9 to Moon Devil in novice chase at Newbury (2m 1f, good). Whistling Buck fell in novice handicap chase at Hereford (2m 3f, good); previously 18l 5th of 8 to Astral Invasion (23lb worse off) in novice handicap chase at Hereford (2m, good). Cool As A Cucumber 16l 3rd of 12 to Peptist in novice handicap chase at Bangor (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft) with Astral Invasion (levels) 57l 8th. Wonderfull Polly 33l 8th of 18 to Ryton Run in selling handicap chase at Fontwell (2m 3f, good).

The consistent COURT MASTER, who goes well here, can gain a deserved success.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

3.30 SAIL ON SCILLONIAN III NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,299: 2m 6f) (9 runners)

401 1202/31 KNIGHTSBRIDGE SCOT 10 (F) (KBC) Miss V Williams 7-11-8 N Williamson [illegible]
402 3-0022F BOZO 14 (BF) (B Ryall) B Ryall 7-11-2 L Cummins (5) 100
403 6U DIAMOND LEADER 27 (J Collett) J Spearing 7-11-2 D Leahy –
404 21-3 FOREVER DREAMING 40 (S) (Mrs M Hanson) S Mellor 7-11-2 C Webb (3) –
405 0- JOLSON 341 (R Barwell) C Barwell 7-11-2 P Henley (3) –
406 3P/1/4F LAYTONTHELINE 119 (G,S) (P Rogers) R Frost 9-11-2 J Frost –
407 /3P-6F6 RICH TYCOON 84 (V) (P Rich) P Rich 9-11-2 W Marston 78
408 330342- RACHEL LOUISE 308 (Dr J Naylor) M Bolton 6-10-11 R Dunwoody 71
409 235F354 SPARKLING BUCK 18 (J Woollen) N Aydlie 6-10-11 Guy Lewis (3) 59

BETTING: 10-11 Knightsbridge Scot, 9-2 Bozo, 5-1 Rachel Louise, 8-1 Forever Dreaming, 12-1 Sparkling Buck, 14-1 Rich Tycoon, 20-1 Laytontheline, 33-1 others.

1997: SCOTBY 7-11-10 B Powell (9-2) R Buckler 16 ran

FORM FOCUS Knightsbridge Scot beat Bassey 8l in 7-runner novice hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good to firm). Bozo fell in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, good); previously 1½l 2nd of 15 to Royal Arctic in novice handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, soft). Forever Dreaming 34l 3rd of 8 to Kriscliffe in amateur novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 7f, good to soft). Jolson 31l 15th of 21 to Rupert Blues in NH flat race at Worcester (2m, good to firm). Laytontheline fell in novice chase at Fontwell (2m 3f, good to soft); previously 52l 4th of 6 to Thatsfsofathenry in novice chase at Newton Abbot (2m 5f 110yd, good). Rich Tycoon 22l 6th of 11 to Sunley Secure in handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, heavy). Rachel Louise 10l 2nd of 4 to Disallowed in 4yo fillies novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, good). Sparkling Buck 15l 4th of 10 to Poolevedra in mares handicap hurdle at Taunton (3m 110yd, good to firm).

BOZO is worth the chance to atone for his fall last time

4.00 ISLES OF SCILLY STEAMSHIP COMPANY NOVICES CHASE
(£2,931: 3m 2f 110yd) (11 runners)

501 -SF1342 DANCETILLYOUDROP 28 (S) (D Millard) P Nicholls 7-11-5 R Johnson 110
502 20-0006 ARMATEUR 4 (B) (Major H Porter) J McConnochie 10-10-12 Mr R Widdey (5) 47
503 5-2202P BANNY HILL LAD 47 (A Sawyer) C Morlock 8-10-12 J R Kavanagh –
504 U022U4 BLUE LAWS 53 (B,G) (J Hoddle) P Nicholls 8-10-12 Mr J Tizzard (5) –
505 0/P CROSS THE RUBICON 93 (Mrs S Towler) C Brooks 7-10-12 G Bradley –
506 0/00-P0 CRUISIN ON CREDIT 46 (G Edwards) G Edwards 7-10-12 D Salter (3) –
507 1-5P5P3 FMINOONIT 25 (G,S) (Innocent Partnership) R Alner 8-10-12 A Thornton 109
508 P-PU5P3 MOORLOUGH BAY 18 (B,G) (Trojan Partnership) H Howe 8-10-12 R Greene 108
509 50-4123 MR MAGNETIC 47 (S) (Mrs A Wood) T Forster 7-10-12 S Wynne –
510 5-23425 SCOTBY 42 (S) (R Buckler) R Buckler 8-10-12 B Powell [illegible]
511 0043-PP BOURNEL 88 (V,S) (N Bowden) C Barwell 10-10-7 B Fenton –

BETTING: 6-4 Mr Magnetic, 9-2 Dancetillyoudrop, 5-1 Banny Hill Lad, Scotby, 12-1 Fminoonit, 14-1 Blue Laws, 20-1 Cross The Rubicon, Moorlough Bay, 25-1 others.

1997: CYBORGO 7-10-12 A P McCoy (8-11 fav) M Pipe 16 ran

FORM FOCUS Dancetillyoudrop beaten a distance 2nd of 5 to Bitofamoup in novice chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good). Armateur beaten a distance 6th of 10 to Music Therapy in novice chase at Lingfield (3m, good to soft). Banny Hill Lad pulled up in novice handicap chase at Windsor (3m, good to soft); previously 14l 2nd of 15 to Edmond in novice hurdle at Huntingdon (3m 2f, good to soft). Blue Laws beaten a distance 4th of 16 to Capenwray in novice handicap chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good to soft). Cross The Rubicon pulled up in novice hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, good); previously 33l 7th of 17 to Simple Simon in novice hurdle at Stratford (2m 6f 110yd, good to firm). Cruisin On Credit 67l 8th of 11 to Texas Scramble in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, soft). Fminoonit 33l 3rd of 8 to Steel Moss in novice chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good). Moorlough Bay 25l 3rd of 8 to Thursday Night in novice chase at Taunton (3m, good to firm). Mr Magnetic 5¼l 3rd of 22 to Jet Tabs in maiden hurdle at Windsor (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft). Scotby 34l 5th of 10 to Lay It Off in handicap chase at Windsor (3m 4f 110yd, good)

MR MAGNETIC, from a stable in sparkling form, can make a successful transition to chasing

4.30 DISCOVER THE ISLES OF SCILLY HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,845: 3m 3f) (7 runners)

601 111/4-0 NEWTON POINT 16 (F,G,S) (Mrs E Pegna & Mrs I Smith) S Earle 9-12-0 R Johnson 50
602 3-11 BELMOREBRUNO 49 (CD,S) (Mrs A Harbutt) M Pipe 6-11-7 A P McCoy [illegible]
603 3215P51 BULLENS BAY 18 (F,G,S) (J Milton) B Llewellyn 9-11-6 B Fenton 87
604 15P8006 COPPER COIL 12 (G,S) (R Lloyd) R Buckler 8-10-0 B Powell 82
605 3612012 WEATHER WISE 46 (G,S) (D Chown) W G M Turner 6-10-0 L Cummins (5) 91
606 /001P-0 FANCY NANCY 46 (S) (T Johnsey) Miss C Johnsey 7-10-0 R Thornton –
607 043/0P- GORT 590 (G,S) (J Hanmer) J Hanmer 10-10-0 D J Burchell –

Long handicap: Copper Coil 9-4, Weather Wise 9-3, Fancy Nancy 9-0, Gort 7-5.

BETTING: 4-5 Belmorebruno, 5-2 Bullens Bay, 8-1 Weather Wise, 12-1 Copper Coil, 14-1 Newton Point, 25-1 Fancy Nancy, 50-1 Gort

1997: MAID EQUAL 6-10-0 G Supple (25-1) M Pipe 17 ran

FORM FOCUS Belmorebruno beat Shore Party 4l in 8-runner amateur novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 7f, good to soft). Bullens Bay beat Good Lord Murphy 7l in 14-runner handicap hurdle at Chepstow (3m, good to soft) with Newton Point (16lb better off) 54l 8th. Copper Coil 14l 5th of 13 to Salaman in handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, good to firm). Weather Wise 7l 2nd of 17 to Tilty in handicap hurdle at Ludlow (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft) with Copper Coil (4lb better off) 40l 8th. Fancy Nancy (levels) 62l 9th and Bullens Bay (7lb worse off) pulled up.

BELMOREBRUNO is fancied to make his abundant stamina tell in demanding conditions

5.00 GRY MARITHA INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,236: 2m 1f) (8 runners)

1 0 GAMBLING GUNNER 116 (Robshaw & Son) M Pipe 6-11-4 J Lower –
2 5 GULLIBLE GUY 32 (G Roberts) Miss V Williams 6-11-4 N Williamson –
3 RUSTY FLAME (Mrs P Collins) Miss P Whittle 5-11-4 K Hibbert (7) –
4 05 SANDORAN 84 (M Hill) M Hill 5-11-4 C Webb (3) –
5 0 WILLET WIZARD 105 (D Stephens) Miss V Stephens 5-11-4 Miss V Stephens –
6 LIGHT GALE (G Gregson) R Frost 5-10-13 J Frost –
7 PERFECT FELLOW (P Bolton) M J Weeden 4-10-10 G Shenkin (7) –
8 SEEF (R Peterson) J King 4-10-10 A P McCoy –

BETTING: 11-10 Gullible Guy, 7-2 Seef, 4-1 Gambling Gunner, 8-1 Sandoran, 12-1 Light Gale, 25-1 others.

1997: IRANOS 5-11-12 A P McCoy (4-5 fav) M Pipe 15 ran

FORM FOCUS Gambling Gunner beaten a distance last of 13 to Valiant Memory in NH flat race at Taunton (2m 1f, good). Gullible Guy 11l 5th of 18 to Russell Road in NH flat race at Towcester (2m, good). Sandoran 18l 5th of 12 to Mister Sandrowitch in NH flat race at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, heavy). Willet Wizard beaten a distance 14th of 15 to Sunday Venture in NH flat race at Ludlow (2m, good)

GAMBLING GUNNER, carried wide on his only start, is better than the bare form suggests

RACELINE
COMMENTARY / RESULTS
0930 168+
N. ABBOT 101 201
SOUTHWELL 102 202
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

SPECIALISTS

NEWTON ABBOT: Trainers: Miss V Williams, 5 winners from 10 runners, 50.0%, P Rich, 4 from 10, 40.0%, M Pipe, 93 from 321, 29.0%. Jockeys: R Dunwoody, 53 winners from 153 rides, 34.6%; A P McCoy, 62 from 185, 33.5%; D J Burchell, 5 from 17, 29.4%.

SOUTHWELL: Trainers: Lord Huntingdon, 16 winners from 69 runners, 23.2%; M Johnston, 46 from 221, 20.8%; M Channon, 6 from 36, 16.7%. Jockeys: Kimberley Hart, 10 winners from 40 rides, 25.0%; K Darley, 14 from 81, 17.3%; K Fallon, 18 from 108, 14.8%.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

1.45 Chaluz. 2.15 Blueprint. 2.45 Mister Aspecto. 3.15 Brutal Fantasy. 3.45 Bold Faith. 4.15 Pine Ridge Lad. 4.45 Spick And Span. 5.15 Suga Hawk.

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.15 FIRST MAITE.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

1.45 RETFORD HANDICAP
(Div I: £2,502: 1m) (12 runners)

1 (3) 6-60 NEEDLE MATCH 28 (C,F) J J O'Neill 5-9-10 C Lowther (3) 78
2 (1) 2-42 MOZAMBIQUE 20 Mrs J Cecil 4-9-8 R Ffrench 84
3 (2) 6656 JOHNNIE THE JOKER 24 (B,CD,G) J Leigh 7-9-7 K Fallon 70
4 (10) 4-02 SEA SPOUSE 11 (CD,S) M Blanshard 7-9-5 Dale Gibson 72
5 (9) 1044 CHALUZ 13 (BF,CD) K Burke 4-9-3 D Sweeney (3) 81
6 (8) 5024 MOLLY MUSIC 14 (CD) G Margarson 4-8-11 A Clark 90
7 (4) -214 DANCING DESTINY 35 (CD) R Bastiman 6-8-7 D McKeown 74
8 (11) 0-41 RAASED 24 (CD,G) F Watson 6-8-5 Kimberley Hart (5) 80
9 (7) 40-1 KASS ALHAWA 10 (C,D,F,G) D Chapman 5-8-1 L Charnock 75
10 (5) 4453 AWESOME VENTURE 7 (CD,S) M Chapman 8-7-12 F Norton 64
11 (12) 5630 MOBBY BARNES 24 (CD,F,G) E Incisa 9-7-10 Kim Tinkler 71
12 (6) 0613 RIPSNORTER 11 (CD,G,S) P Purdy 9-7-10 A McCarthy (5) 75

4-1 Mozambique, 9-2 Sea Spouse, 5-1 Chaluz, 7-1 Molly Music, Kass Alhawa, 10-1 Johnnie The Joker, Dancing Destiny, 12-1 others.

2.15 SKEGBY STAKES
(£3,436: 1m 4f) (6)

1 (5) 0-32 YAVERLAND 26 John Berry 6-9-12 M Tebbutt 75
2 (4) 4-64 ANDAMAN 6 D Murray Smith 4-9-10 C Lowther (3) 50
3 (1) 0- GROUCHO 328 N Babbage 4-9-10 W Ryan 60
4 (6) 004- RUSSIAN RULER 215 A Jarvis 4-9-10 D Sweeney (3) 45
5 (2) 46-4 ARCTIC STAR 30 M Channon 3-8-3 A Mackay 68
6 (3) 05- BLUEPRINT 171 Lord Huntingdon 3-8-3 Dale Gibson 76

11-10 Blueprint, 7-2 Yaverland, 9-2 Russian Ruler, 11-2 Arctic Star, 14-1 others.

2.45 NORMANTON CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,222: 1m 6f) (7)

1 (5) -111 MISTER ASPECTO 19 (V,C,F) M Johnston 5-9-12 D McKeown 80
2 (7) 01/2 JARAAB 19 (V,C) Miss S Wilton 7-9-6 S Whitworth 66
3 (4) 38/6 QUESTAN 9 (G) B Smart 6-9-2 J Stack –
4 (3) -543 NIGITA'S STAR 19 (C,F) D M Smith 5-9-1 C Lowther (3) 86
5 (6) 543/ SUPERMODEL 287J (V) Mrs Macauley 6-9-1 P McCabe (3) –
6 (1) 4-04 PHARLY DANCER 17 (CD,S) J Hetherton 9-8-8 A Culhane 90
7 (2) -130 ETHBAAT 16 (F,G) R Juckes 7-8-7 A Clark 84

4-6 Mister Aspecto, 5-1 Nigita's Star, 6-1 Jaraab, 10-1 Pharly Dancer, 14-1 others

3.15 MARKHAM MOOR HANDICAP
(£3,420: 6f) (10)

1 (8) 0152 ROBO MAGIC 9 (D,F) L Montague Hall 6-10-0 W Ryan 81
2 (10) 0142 PALACEGATE TOUCH 17 (B,BF,D,F,G,S) J Berry 8-9-12 C Lowther (3) 78
3 (3) 5153 ZIGGY'S DANCER 12 (BF,CD,F,G) E Alston 7-9-12 K Fallon 85
4 (5) -332 FIRST MAITE 28 (B,CD,G,S) S Bowring 5-9-9 C Teague (3) 93
5 (7) 0644 BRUTAL FANTASY 12 (BF,CD,F,G) J Eyre 4-9-8 R Lappin 78
6 (6) 00-4 DEPRECIATE 42 (D,G) T Barron 5-9-2 K Darley 74
7 (4) 2631 ELTON LEDGER 7 (V,CD,F) Mrs N Macauley 9-9-1 (6ex) P McCabe (3) 70
8 (9) 066- BODFARIDISTINCTION 192 (S) A Bailey 3-3-10 D Wright 55
9 (2) -013 RUDE AWAKENING 10 (CD,F) C Fairhurst 4-8-0 P Fessey (3) 76
10 (1) 2451 SOAKED 7 (B,CD) D Chapman 5-7-12 (6ex) L Charnock 70

4-1 Brutal Fantasy, 5-1 First Maite, 11-2 Ziggy's Dancer, 6-1 Robo Magic, 8-1 Palacegate Touch, Elton Ledger, 10-1 Depreciate, Rude Awakening, 12-1 others.

3.45 RETFORD HANDICAP
(Div II: £2,489: 1m) (11)

1 (10) 4302 SWIFT 7 (D,F,G) M Polglase 4-9-10 K Darley 60
2 (11) 060- MADISON MIST 272 Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-7 J Fortune 51
3 (8) 06-2 CEE-N-K 61 (BF,D,F) E Alston 4-9-7 J Quinn 60
4 (1) 2301 PLEASURE TRICK 10 (CD,F,G) E Incisa 7-9-6 Kim Tinkler 71
5 (7) 0-03 ALFAHAAL 39 (BF,D,F,S) C Dwyer 5-9-4 D R McCabe 72
6 (5) 41-1 BOLD FAITH 24 (CD,G,S) W Musson 5-9-2 K Fallon 90
7 (2) 00-2 GREEN BOPPER 24 (D,G) G Woodward 5-8-8 C Lowther (3) 81
8 (3) 1622 SHARP MONKEY 7 (V,CD) Mrs N Macauley 3-8-5 P McCabe (3) 77
9 (9) -138 WELCOME LU 2 (CD,F,G) J L Harris 5-8-3 F Norton 70
10 (6) 0621 PATINA 10 (CD) R Hollinshead 4-8-0 P M Quinn (7) 76
11 (4) 00-3 BEAU ROBERTO 10 J Goldie 4-7-10 J McAuley (7) 75

4-1 Swift, 5-1 Alfahaal, 6-1 Bold Faith, 8-1 Cee-N-K, Pleasure Trick, Sharp Monkey, Patina, 10-1 others.

4.15 RUFFORD SELLING STAKES
(£1,898: 1m) (12)

1 (1) 1344 KI CHI SAGA 6 (B,D) G L Moore 6-9-4 S Whitworth 80
2 (7) 1036 PINE RIDGE LAD 24 (BF,CD,F,G) J Eyre 8-9-4 O Pears 70
3 (6) 5133 ROCK ISLAND LINE 7 (CD,F,S) J Berry 4-9-4 P Roberts (3) 64
4 (12) 0612 U-NO-HARRY 12 (C,F) R Hollinshead 5-9-4 A McCarthy (5) 75
5 (5) 0500 ALLINSON'S MATE 16 (B,C,D,F,G,S) T Barron 10-8-12 K Darley 66
6 (2) 300- HEVER GOLF CHARMER 9J B Rothwell 4-8-12 M Fenton 65
7 (4) 5434 INVOCATION 16 (BF,D,F) G L Moore 11-8-12 A Clark 74
8 (8) 3004 LEIGH CROFTER 7 (B,C,F,G,S) J A Harris 9-8-12 T G McLaughlin 65
9 (3) 0/46 MUSTN'T GRUMBLE 12 (C,D,F,G) Miss S Wilton 8-8-12 K Fallon 90
10 (9) -030 SHAMOKIN 10 F Watson 6-8-12 Kimberley Hart (5) 54
11 (11) -600 SWEET MATE 7 (B,C,S) S Bowring 6-8-12 C Teague (3) 80
12 (10) 000- BOLLERO 13J (B,G,S) J Berry 4-8-7 P Fessey (3) –

9-2 Pine Ridge Lad, 5-1 Rock Island Line, 6-1 Ki Chi Saga, 13-2 U-No-Harry, 7-1 Invocation, 8-1 Mustn't Grumble, 10-1 Allinson's Mate, 12-1 others.

4.45 TUXFORD HANDICAP
(Div I: £1,893: 1m 4f) (11)

1 (9) 1121 PICKENS 10 (CD,F) Enrico Incisa 6-9-13 Kim Tinkler 80
2 (5) 4630 FIELD OF VISION 14 (F,S) Mrs A Swinbank 8-9-10 G Duffield 59
3 (3) -435 BIG BANG 21 (CD) M Blanshard 4-9-7 J Quinn 75
4 (11) 6322 EVEZIO RUFO 6 (B,CD,S) N Littmoden 6-9-6 P Roberts (3) 83
5 (8) -034 SQUIRE'S OCCASION 17J (B) R Curtis 5-9-5 D Sweeney (3) 79
6 (10) 420- SPICK AND SPAN 9J P Hedger 4-8-12 D McKeown 65
7 (6) 2-61 GROVEFAIR LAD 30 (D) S Bowring 4-8-7 C Teague (3) 75
8 (1) 3-60 GIFTBOX 35 (G,S) N Bycroft 6-8-2 A McCarthy (5) 48
9 (4) 0045 TEMPERING 10 (CD,F) D Chapman 12-7-12 L Charnock 63
10 (2) 6-50 AFRICAN SUN 11J M Chapman 5-7-10 F Norton 70
11 (7) 800/ CANDY'S DELIGHT 496 J Norton 5-7-10 Dale Gibson –

7-2 Pickens, 9-2 Evezio Rufo, 5-1 Grovefair Lad, 7-1 Field Of Vision, 8-1 Big Bang, Squire's Occasion, 10-1 Spick And Span, 12-1 others.

5.15 TUXFORD HANDICAP
(Div II: £1,882: 1m 4f) (10)

1 (1) 0-03 POKER SCHOOL 6 (G) N Callaghan 4-9-12 R Hughes 40
2 (7) -623 SUGA HAWK 16 (BF,D,F,S) E Alston 6-9-9 K Fallon 75
3 (3) 00-3 NORTHERN MOTTO 10 (D,S) J Goldie 5-9-6 D Griffiths (3) 50
4 (8) -554 KOMREYEV DANCER 30 (F,G) A Bailey 6-9-5 J Bosley (7) 75
5 (2) 00-0 RIVER CAPTAIN 21 (C) D Murray Smith 5-9-3 C Lowther (3) 60
6 (6) 1320 DOUBLE ECHO 10 (CD,F,G,S) J Bethell 10-8-8 M J Dwyer 80
7 (10) 230- FORZAIR 34J (CD,F) J J O'Neill 6-8-4 P Fessey (3) 84
8 (4) 6313 PALACEGATE JO 5 (CD,G,S) D Chapman 7-8-1 L Charnock 70
9 (5) /306 MODEST HOPE 14 (CD,F,S) Mrs S Lamyman 11-7-11 N Carlisle 89
10 (9) -554 STAR WITNESS 25 (B,F,G) A Newcombe 6-7-10 M Baird (3) 72

4-1 Palacegate Jo, 9-2 Suga Hawk, 5-1 Double Echo, 6-1 Forzair, 8-1 Poker School, Northern Motto, Komreyev Dancer, 10-1 others

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Newton Abbot: 3.30 Rich Tycoon, 4.00 Armateur, Moorlough Bay. Southwell: 2.45 Supermodel, 5.15 Star Witness.

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S FIVE MEETINGS

Doncaster
Going: soft

2.00 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Potter's Gale (A Maguire, 4-11 fav); 2, Non Vintage (7-2); 3, Cabille (10-1). 3 ran. NR: The Moor. 12l, 21l. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.20. DF: £1.20. CSF: £1.76.

2.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Effectual (S Kelly, Evens fav, Thunderer's nap); 2, Toshiba Talk (6-1); 3, Executive Design (4-1). 4 ran. NR: Nishamira. 4l, 20l. Miss V Williams. Tote: £1.80. DF: £3.90. CSF: £5.95.

3.05 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, What's Your Story (R Garritty, 9-4 fav); 2, Uncle Doug (10-1); 3, Miss Roberto (11-4). 5 ran. ¾l, 21l. P Webber. Tote: £2.60; £1.50, £3.20. DF: £13.10. CSF: £18.29.

3.35 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, Easthorpe (J F Titley, 7-2); 2, Marble Man (5-1); 3, Real Tonic (11-2). Anabranch 6-4 fav. 5 ran. 15l, dist. Miss H Knight. Tote: £3.90; £1.40, £2.20. DF: £9.60. CSF: £17.99.

4.10 (3m 2f ch) 1, The Toiseach (A Dobbin, 7-4 fav); 2, Random Harvest (5-1); 3, Scotton Banks (16-1). 6 ran. 14l, 30l. J Fanshawe. Tote: £2.40; £1.50, £2.30. DF: £7.50. CSF: £9.75.

4.40 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Lady Rebecca (N Williamson, Evens fav); 2, Sydney Twothousand (3-1); 3, Lord Cocroe (33-1). 5 ran. NR: Galeshan, Sun Alert. 16l, 24l. Miss V Williams. Tote: £1.90; £1.40, £1.30. DF: £2.60. CSF: £4.04.

5.10 (2m 110yd flat) 1, Parlance Bay (Mr C Wilson, 10-1); 2, Owtabeatim (5-1); 3, Bodfari North (14-1). Durnford Bay 11-4 fav. 16 ran. NR: Bollcario, Woodfield Gale. Nk, 21l. Mrs A Swinbank. Tote: £11.30; £2.70, £2.00, £5.80. DF: £48.00. Trio: £220.70. CSF: £55.40.

Jackpot: £240.50.
Placepot: £41.80.
Quadpot: £17.80.

Huntingdon
Going: soft

2.25 1, Sierra Creek (5-2); 2, Pomme Secret (6-4 fav); 3, Chief Predator (9-1). 15 ran.

2.55 1, Dantes Cavalier (4-11 fav); 2, Executive King (16-1); 3, Shadrach (6-1). 5 ran.

3.25 1, Accountancy Lady (7-2); 2, Polar Lord (4-6 fav); 3, Cumberland Youth (50-1). 5 ran.

4.00 1, Thumbs Up (6-5 fav); 2, Who's To Say (9-4); 3, Gealtainnban (2-1). 3 ran. NR: Belafonte, Mister Drum, Sierra Bay.

4.30 1, Ballygriffin Lad (20-1); 2, Saxon Duke (100-30); 3, Baroncelli (14-1). Dorobo 11-10 fav. 8 ran.

5.00 1, Mr Christie (13-2); 2, Whitebonnet (10-1); 3, Little Gunner (15-2). Daru 5-2 fav. 9 ran.

Newbury
Going: heavy

1.45 1, Bold Dolphin (5-2); 2, Quell (8-1); 3, Tristram's Image (15-8 jt-fav); Stanmore (fl) 15-8 jt-fav. 4 ran. NR: Dual Or Bust.

2.15 1, Macgeorge (85-40 fav) finished alone. 5 ran.

2.45 1, Kingsfold Pet (6-5 fav, Timekeeper's top rating); 2, Bless Me Sister (11-2); 3, Lightening Lad (9-2). 4 ran. NR: Halona.

3.15 1, Easy Buck (11-10); 2, Too Plush (4-5 fav). 2 ran. NR: Easthorpe, Golden Spinner, Lance Armstrong.

3.50 1, Lord Of The River (9-2); 2, Marlborough (5-1); 3, Dark Challenger (20-1). Sweet Lord 100-30 fav. 9 ran. NR: Gorman, Woolloomooloo.

4.20 1, Ken Risk (4-1); 2, Rossmore Girl (11-4 jt-fav); 3, General Assembly (10-1). Ardsuiephi 11-4 jt-fav. 8 ran. NR: Mutanassib.

4.50 1, Crookedstone (10-1); 2, Young Thruster (10-1); 3, Offshore (16-1). Caught Napping 4-1 jt-fav. 16 ran. NR: Broganer, Lord Edgar.

Warwick
Going: soft

2.05 1, Royal Scimitar (4-1); 2, Bessie Browne (11-2); 3, Annmannan (50-1). Majestic Sound 7-4 fav. 13 ran. NR: Moonlight Air.

2.35 1, Calm Down (9-4 fav); 2, Luke Warm (16-1); 3, The Land Agent (11-2). 7 ran.

3.10 1, Choisty (11-1); 2, Miss Dislon (7-1). A N C Express 5-6 fav. 6 ran.

3.45 1, Prairie Minstrel (13-8 fav); 2, Lotschberg Express (9-2); 3, Sir Pageant (25-1). 6 ran. NR: Erking, Ioder Wan.

4.15 1, Mon Amie (4-5 fav, Richard Evans's nap); 2, Menlena (7-1); 3, Garolo (5-2). 4 ran.

4.45 1, Double Silk (1-2 fav); 2, Golden Drops (11-1); 3, Siriset (16-1). 6 ran.

5.15 1, Dorans Grove (5-1); 2, Little Red Spider (7-1); 3, Crazy Crusader (7-2). Knightsbridge Bred 3-1 fav. 13 ran.

Wolverhampton
Going: standard

7.00 1, Pow Wow (13-2); 2, Hever Golf Passion (7-2 jt-fav); 3, Holderness Girl (25-1). Misconduct 7-2 jt-fav. 12 ran.

7.30 1, Ambiguous (2-9 fav); 2, Bint Nadia (40-1); 3, Molozza (20-1). 8 ran.

8.00 1, Be Warned (11-1); 2, Dr Edgar (7-1); 3, Eurobox Boy (12-1). Indian Blaze 100-30 fav. 13 ran.

8.30 1, Frankie Ferrari (11-4 jt-fav); 2, Operatic (14-1); 3, Spirit Of Love (13-2). Katie's Cracker 11-4 jt-fav. 8 ran.

9.00 1, Featherstone Lane (3-1); 2, Palacegate Jack (3-1); 3, Chemcast (5-2 fav). 10 ran.

9.30 1, Rockswain (6-1); 2, Ruonlen Romeo (20-1); 3, Erro Codigo (11-1). OK Babe 4-1 fav. 13 ran.

LEADERS OVER THE JUMPS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Days since win	Level stakes
M Pipe	165	101	57	2	-47.83
D Nicholson	91	64	57	2	-37.74
Mrs M Reveley	68	39	44	7	+103.24
P Hobbs	57	42	43	2	-95.41
P Nicholls	56	36	29	10	+36.79
N Twiston-Davies	47	39	41	3	+18.08
N Henderson	41	26	30	3	+34.00
K Bailey	37	21	31	2	+42.75
Mrs S Smith	37	45	40	3	-48.00
Miss V Williams	34	17	13	2	+62.93
M Hammond	33	49	47	6	-90.16
G Richards	32	13	16	3	-32.71
O Sherwood	31	14	23	2	-31.12
Mrs J Pitman	31	21	20	6	+4.58
T Forster	30	25	19	2	+44.39
R Alner	30	24	26	6	-32.52
Miss H Knight	29	26	22	2	-38.15
P Bowen	29	30	22	18	-28.27
T Easterby	27	21	9	37	-11.58

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
A P McCoy	206	126	74	0	-27.76
R Johnson	88	103	77	10	-69.35
R Dunwoody	87	65	51	0	-97.64
A Maguire	86	59	46	1	-31.43
M A Fitzgerald	73	61	50	7	+8.83
A Thornton	69	57	67	2	-85.62
P Niven	61	31	43	11	+26.49
C Llewellyn	61	57	50	2	-16.12
N Williamson	57	52	56	0	-115.89
R Thornton	50	54	62	5	-66.10
T J Murphy	48	31	23	9	+20.88
P Carberry	44	38	39	5	-80.34
A Dobbin	38	31	28	0	-62.86
R Supple	37	48	31	3	-53.75
C Maude	37	34	28	2	-11.37
G Bradley	34	26	25	8	-19.07
R Garritty	33	37	31	0	-93.55
B Powell	32	37	34	24	-193.17
E Callaghan	31	22	29	8	-42.01

Who to thank for Mother's Day?

The fourth Sunday in Lent, *in the Middle Ages*, was the day on which the daughter churches honoured the mother church and visited it in procession with banners, an honour transferred after *the Reformation* to the mother of the family.

By the 17th century it was recorded as a celebration of motherhood, when young people in domestic service living away from home returned to their parents' houses to present their mothers with a gift of a trinket, or a simnel cake. The practice thrived and peaked with the Victorians, but declined this century and was virtually extinct by 1935.

It is to the Americans that we owe the revival of Mothering Sunday, or Mother's Day, as it is increasingly described. During the Second World War, homesick GIs revitalised the native custom by importing and adding on their own Mother's Day festivities.

Theirs is a 20th-century invention, celebrated in America on the second Sunday in May, which by the 1940s had come to include the flowers and cards which we are used to now.

This year on March 22 few children will follow the custom of handing their mothers a posy of snowdrops or primroses in church. Instead they will provide breakfast *in bed if they can, or do the* washing-up, allowing the mothers to put their feet up. More than 25 million will give cards to mark the day.

It started in the Middle Ages, but was almost extinct until the Americans stepped in . . .

Those who deplore the commercialism of Mothering Sunday are the same people who rail against the earlier start to Christmas, or that even newer invention, Father's Day. They are wasting their breath: the simple truth is that by providing us with a ready-made opportunity to honour our fathers and our mothers in this stress-filled age, those homesick GIs touched a chord that is unlikely to stop ringing.

Mother's Day is popular across Europe, though it is celebrated on different days: in April, May (on at least three different Sundays) or even June. A former European Member of Parliament, the Portuguese socialist Artur da Cunha Oliveira, wanted to standardise the date but his fellow MEPs did not agree. Local customs, even 20th-century ones, die hard.

At the moment, mothers are very much in vogue. "Mum, I love you!" cried Shola Ama, the Best Female Performer at this year's Brit Awards. "And I want to say to my grandmother, I love you too!" All Saints sent love to their mothers as they won. Leonardo DiCaprio took his mother to the opening of *Titanic*. Before Mothering Sunday last year, the Spice Girls paid tribute to their mothers with the video of their hit single *Mama*.

Charities have benefited. It provides opportunities to run mum in a million stories, and to feature endless advice columns about how to tailor your mother's flower to her character, home or favourite colour. Flower arrangers have a field-day, of course.

At the heart of Mothering Sunday is the idea of a gift, and here it sometimes pays to think ahead. As the advertisements prove, the simple posy has been extended to a huge variety of exotic flowers, chocolates and toiletries these days.

Antique jewellery is very popular and can be surprisingly inexpensive. Short-break holidays and awaydays are seen as a way of expressing thanks. For older mothers *who love a show, a theatre ticket might* be a good idea. Some of these presents can be delivered on the day, but all need to be planned.

A final thought: an opinion poll found that the one gift that mothers treasured most on the day was the company of their children.

MARC ASPLAND



Lonely American soldiers revived the custom; now more than 25 million cards are sent for Mothering Sunday, and florists have a field-day

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Other occasions, please specify delivery date on the coupon:				
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15 Orchids £14.99 +£1.00 p&p	OS15	£15.99		£
24 Orchids £18.99 +£1.00 p&p	OS24	£19.99		£
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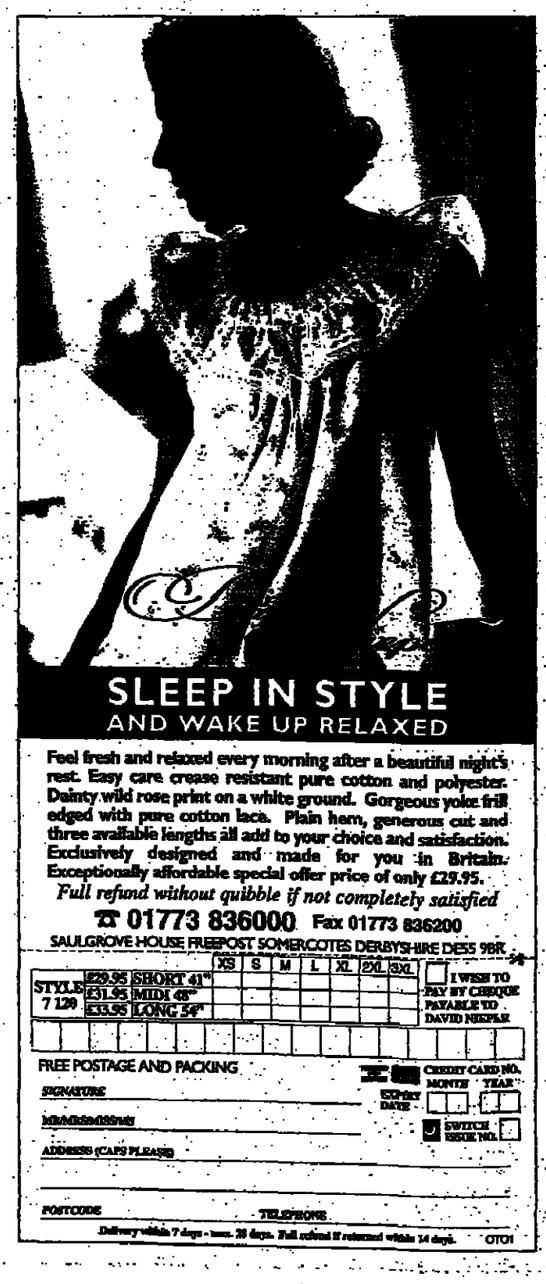
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Unrealistic to expect complete records

Regina v Guney

Before Lord Justice Judge, Mr Justice Poole and Judge Rant, QC

[Judgment February 27]

The defence was entitled to be informed of any convictions and disciplinary findings against any police officers in the case, including transcripts of any decisions of the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, in which convictions had been quashed on the express basis of misconduct or lack of veracity of identified police officers as well as cases stopped by the trial judge or discontinued on the same basis, but it was wholly unrealistic to expect the prosecution to attempt to maintain records of each an every occasion on which any police officer gave evidence in any court in the country.

Although evidence of cash or lifestyle might only rarely be relevant where there was a charge of simple possession of drugs, such evidence was not to be excluded as irrelevant as a matter of law. The relevance of any particular piece of evidence was decided on a case by case basis.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in dismissing an appeal by Erkin Ramadan Guney against his conviction on July 23, 1996, at Snaresbrook Crown Court (Judge Elwen and a jury) of possessing heroin, a controlled class A drug, with intent to supply for which he was sentenced to ten years imprisonment.

He was also convicted of possessing a firearm and ammunition without firearms certificates for which he was sentenced to terms of four years imprisonment to run concurrently with each other but consecutively to the sentence of ten years.

Mr Edmund Lawson, QC and Mr Paul Kelleher for the appellant; Mr David Jeremy for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE JUDGE, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that a team of six police officers had been to the appellant's home with a warrant to search for drugs.

The appellant was present when a box containing £24,815 in cash, a handgun with live .22 ammunition in the magazine and three further boxes with 140 rounds of live ammunition and five plastic bags containing 4.99 kilos of heroin of 58 per cent purity with a value of between £100,000 and £125,000 wholesale or about £750,000 on the street, were found in different parts of a wardrobe in his bedroom.

The appellant claimed he knew nothing about the heroin or the firearms and ammunition and said he was the victim of a "set-up" although he did not suggest that the items had been planted by the police.

The issue at the trial was whether the drugs and firearms had been put in the appellant's bedroom without his knowledge by his enemies. The appellant alleged he was the victim of an ongoing murder plot which he had reported to the police and which was being investigated by Detective Inspector Scully and Detective Constable Johnston.

The relationship between the appellant, Scully and Johnston was highly unorthodox and no proper records were kept but nothing in their written witness statements hinted at any dishonest police activity against the appellant.

Three of the police officers involved in the search of the appellant's house, Detective Sergeant Osborne, Detective Constable Gillan and Detective Constable Popham, had formerly been members of the notorious No 3 Area Drug Squad based at Stoke Newington, the subject of a disciplinary investigation known as Operation Jackpot, after which Gillan was transferred away from Stoke Newington. Neither Osborne nor Popham was transferred and no criminal or disciplinary proceedings were taken against any of the three.

On the basis of those facts and relying on the judgment of *R v Edwards* ([1991] 1 WLR 207) counsel for the Crown concluded that that material had no relevance to the issues in the case.

On an application by the defence that the Crown should disclose to the defence the report and statements, whether oral or written, containing allegations concerning Gillan, Popham and Osborne, the judge was reminded that whatever complaints might have been made there had been no adverse findings against any of those officers. He ruled that the application amounted to a fishing expedition aimed at casting such a burden on the Crown as to induce the possibility of the case being dropped.

When that matter was raised on appeal, their Lordships ordered that the Crown should disclose a number of judgments of the Court of Appeal and further documents arising from Operation Jackpot.

Mr Lawson argued that the defence was entitled to be informed of any convictions and disciplinary findings against any police officers in the case. Their Lordships agreed.

Mr Lawson suggested that logically the defence was entitled to be informed of every occasion when any officer had given evidence unsuccessfully or whenever any allegations had been made against him. Their Lordships disagreed:

It was wholly unrealistic for the prosecution to attempt to maintain records of each and every occasion when any police officer gave evidence in any court in the country and to mark the record with an indication whether his evidence was successful or unsuccessful (whatever that might mean) challenged or unchallenged, and for the note to be completed by the addition of a summary of any allegation made against him.

It was even less feasible for the record then to be marked with references to any other officer or officers giving evidence on each such occasion. The investigation and trial process would be buried by such procedures and the exercise would be pointless as such material could only rarely be deployed.

On the other hand, what would appear not unduly burdensome and appeared to follow logically from the authorities, was that in addition to convictions and disciplinary findings, the records available to the Crown Prosecution Service should include transcripts of any decisions of the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, in which convictions had been quashed on the express basis of misconduct or lack of veracity of identified police officers as well as with cases which had been stopped by the trial judge or been discontinued on the same basis.

The availability of such information should not be dependant on the fact that an individual member of the defence team was aware of particular cases.

Having considered the cases in which Gillan, Popham and Osborne were involved their Lordships concluded that disclosure of the appeal in the case which involved Osborne was not obligatory since his credibility had not been impugned: as to Popham, the criticism of his credibility in the case in which he was involved was not relevant to any issue in this particular case.

Gillan's position was complicated by the number of cases in which he had been involved but the quashing of the convictions was irrelevant to any issue in the present trial. Even assuming that questions could have been properly deployed the safety of this conviction was not undermined.

Their Lordships then considered the ground of appeal relating to the appellant's lifestyle. At trial it was accepted on behalf of the appellant that if, contrary to his defence, it was proved that he was in possession of the heroin found in his bedroom then it was open to the jury to infer that he intended to supply it.

The real issue was not intent but possession. From that Mr Lawson submitted that as a matter of principle evidence about the finding of the cash was inadmissible. It was implicit in his argument that the offences of simple possession and possession with intent should be approached as if the evidential considerations in two distinct offences were identical.

Reliance was placed on the observation of Mr Justice Rougier in *R v Halpin* ([1996] Crim LR 122) that it was "unarguable that such evidence cannot afford any probative value when the issue is possession ... It is not and cannot be relevant to the issue of whether or not the defendant was in possession of the drug."

It was not easy to ascertain the reasoning behind the observation in *Halpin*. Relevance and admissibility were distinct questions. The question whether evidence was relevant depended not on abstract legal theory but on the individual circumstances of each particular case.

Having examined the authorities, and the reasoning which culminated in the observation in *Halpin*, their Lordships had adopted the invitation in *R v Elroy Edward* (unreported, July 29, 1997) to reconsider it.

In their judgment, evidence of possession of cash would often lack any probative value. The defendant's possession of a large sum of cash, or enjoyment of a wealthy lifestyle, did not, on its own, prove anything very much and certainly not possession of drugs.

Accordingly, although evidence of cash and lifestyle might only rarely be relevant where the charge was simple possession, it was not the case that as a matter of law such evidence had automatically to be excluded as irrelevant.

In any event, when the accused was charged with possession with intent the Crown was seeking to prove a distinct, aggravated, offence, and, contrary to the argument considered earlier, the evidential considerations were not identical.

Even if evidence of cash and lifestyle were automatically excluded in cases where simple possession was alleged, it would not follow from the sensible forensic tactic of conceding the intent to supply that cash and lifestyle evidence in cases alleging possession with intent should be excluded.

The different ingredients of the offence should not be artificially compartmentalised. Ultimately the jury had to decide whether the particular charge had been proved, and for that purpose was entitled to consider all the relevant evidence.

Where possession with intent was charged, there were numerous sets of circumstances in which cash and lifestyle evidence might be relevant and admissible to the issue of possession itself, not least to the issue of knowledge as an ingredient of possession.

Solicitors: Kaim Todner; Crown Prosecution Service, Stratford.

Protective writs were abuse of process

West Bromwich Building Society v Mander Hadley & Co (a Firm)

Before Lord Justice Millett, Lord Justice Schiemann and Sir Brian Neill

[Judgments February 27]

It was an abuse of process to bring proceedings when there was no present intention of prosecuting them and when the plaintiff was unaware of any valid basis for its claim.

Accordingly, where a building society, shortly before the expiry of the primary limitation period, issued protective writs against solicitors claiming an indemnity and contribution in respect of possible future claims by investors, it was right to strike out the writs.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments, allowing an appeal by the defendant, Mander Hadley & Co, solicitors, of Coventry, against the order of Mr Justice Evans-Lombe on March 21, 1997, by which he dismissed their application to strike out 47 writs issued by West Bromwich Building Society against 382 firms of solicitors.

Mr Andrew Sutcliffe for the defendants; Mr Andrew Hochhauser, QC and Mr Vernon Flynn for the society.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that in the late 1980s the society financed approximately 2,400 home income plans which were promoted by independent financial advisers and sold to private home owners.

The intention was to allow home owners to realise value from their homes, by borrowing on the security of their homes and investing the amount raised to increase their income.

The rise in interest rates and collapse in property values in the early 1990s destroyed the viability of many of the plans. Their failure caused loss to many home owners.

In each case the conveyancing was carried out by solicitors acting for the home owners who were also instructed by the society.

The Investors Compensation Scheme brought proceedings on behalf of some home owners against the society alleging vicarious liability for misrepresentations by the financial advisers and breach of duty of care.

In addition, 259 individual home owners brought equitable claims against the society. In each case the society claimed an indemnity or contribution from the solicitors who had done the conveyancing. Those claims had been fully pleaded. 14 lead cases were being heard and the remainder had been stayed pending the outcome.

The present appeal concerned a further 47 writs issued by the society shortly before the expiry of the primary limitation period of six years, by which it made a further 707 claims for indemnity or contribution against 382 firms of solicitors. Those were all cases in which the home owners had not to date made or notified any claim against the society and might never do so.

The writs had been described as protective writs to protect the society against the imminent expiry of the primary limitation period. The society's stated concern was the risk that further claims might be brought against it after the expiry of the limitation period when it would be too late to bring its claims for contribution or indemnity.

The solicitors in question were not insurers. They had not contracted to indemnify the society. Any liability on their part arose from their own default.

The judge, staying the actions, considered that the disadvantages to the defendants of having writs hanging over their heads for months and even years was outweighed by the injustice which would be suffered by the society if it was sued by home owners and was unable to bring proceedings for indemnity or contribution.

The observations of Lord Justice May in *Steamship Mutual Underwriting Association v Trollope & Colls* ((1986) 33 BLR 77, 87) and of Mr Justice Saville in *Barton Henderson v Merrett and Ernst & Young* ([1993] 1 Lloyd's Rep 540, 541) were directly applicable.

While the publicity attending the successful determination of the lead cases made it more likely that further claims would be brought against the society, judgment in the lead cases would not assist the society in identifying which of the present claims it wished to pursue or enable it to plead to them.

There was no true comparison between the actions stayed pending determination of the lead actions, where the parties had been identified and the society's claims fully pleaded, and the actions with which the present appeal was concerned.

It was an abuse of process to bring proceedings when there was no present intention of prosecuting them and when the plaintiff was unaware of any valid basis for its claim.

An individual writ would be struck out as a matter of course in such circumstances. Why should it make a difference that there were several hundred of them?

The problem was caused by the fact that the society's cause of action, although for all practical purposes contingent, had nevertheless accrued at a time when it was unable to plead it.

The situation was one for which the Civil Liability (Contribution) Act 1978 and section 14A of the Limitation Act 1980, as inserted by section 1 of the Latent Damage Act 1986, provided partial but not complete protection.

It was not clear to his Lordship why Parliament had confined the operation of section 14A so that it was not available for claims in negligence framed in contract; nor why Parliament had not provided that a contingent cause of action should not be treated for limitation purposes as accruing before the contingency occurred.

Those were matters which the Law Commission might wish to consider. But it was not for the courts to extend the limitation period in hard cases by permitting writs to be issued at a time when the plaintiff was unaware of any valid basis for the claim.

Lord Justice Schiemann and Sir Brian Neill agreed.

Solicitors: Reynolds Porter Chamberlain; Eversheds, Birmingham.

Voluntary work as local connection

Regina v Ealing London Borough Council, Ex parte Fox (Anthony)

It was not necessary for the purposes of establishing a local connection with a district under section 61(1)(b) of the Housing Act 1985 that a homeless person's employment in that district was paid employment.

Mr Gerald Moriarty, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held in a reserved judgment on January 29, when, inter alia, granting a declaration that under section 61 of the Housing Act 1985 "employed in" meant employed in work whether the work was for remuneration or voluntary, on an application for judicial review by Anthony Fox of a decision of the London Borough of Ealing to refer his homelessness application to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.

HIS LORDSHIP considered section 61(1) of the 1985 Act and said that the words "employed in" were to be given their ordinary meaning. In their ordinary meaning those words referred to and included both paid and unpaid employment.

There was nothing in the context of section 61 in that part of the 1985 Act to require any limit to be imposed on those words, and the purpose of the section could be achieved by giving the words their natural meaning.

Accordingly the council had misdirected itself in treating the voluntary employment which was available to the applicant as not being capable of being a qualifying circumstance within section 61(1)(b) of that Act.

Cross-examinations on inadmissible statements to stop

Regina v Gray
Regina v Evans

Before Lord Justice Hutchison, Mr Justice Mance and Judge Ann Goddard, QC

[Judgment February 20]

It was not appropriate to ask a defendant in cross-examination to explain statements made against him by a co-defendant in a document which, although admissible against the co-defendant, was inadmissible against the defendant in question. If that type of cross-examination was a not infrequent practice it should not be continued.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in allowing the appeals of Darren Gray and Gareth Evans against their convictions in April 1997 at Maidstone Crown Court (Judge Rogers, QC and a jury) of arson being reckless as to whether life was endangered, for which Gray had been sentenced to six years in a young offender institution and Evans to four years in prison.

Mr David Tomlinson, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Gray; Mr Louis French, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Evans; Mr N. Van der Bijl for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE HUTCHISON, giving the judgment of the court, said that in interview Evans agreed that they set out together deliberately to torch a church. Gray, admitting presence, denied that he had any involvement with committing the offence, although he admitted breaking a church window.

Gray gave evidence but Evans did not, although his interview was before the jury and was evidence in his case.

In his cross-examination of Gray, Mr Van der Bijl asked him whether he and Evans were the best of mates at the time and whether there had been any falling out between them which Mr Tomlinson suggested were designed to establish that Evans had no reason to tell lies about Gray.

Mr Van der Bijl then put a copy of Evans' interview before Gray and asked him a series of questions about it.

Mr Tomlinson intervened and submitted that that cross-examination was inappropriate in the circumstances, but the judge said the jury would understand the situation and would understand the direction he would be giving them on the evidential value of Evans' interview.

In support of his contention before their Lordships that Gray should not have been cross-examined in that way because the effect of the questions was to seem to confer on the interview of Evans a status which it did not enjoy, Mr Tomlinson relied on *R v Hickey and Others* (unreported, July 30, 1997) and *R v Windas* ([1988] 89 Cr App R 258).

In *Windas* Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, had said (at p262) that it was "quite improper for counsel to take in his hand a statement which is inadmissible vis-à-vis the witness whom he is cross-examining ... and then to ask the witness to explain, almost sentence by sentence, the highly damaging statements inadmissible against him which the maker of the document had written."

Mr Van der Bijl submitted that it was legitimate, and a common practice, to cross-examine on the basis of the interview of one defendant to endeavour to obtain admissions from the other.

The crucial matter, he submitted, was that the evidence was before the jury and that the witness was able to say that he did not accept the matter that was put to him, and that, if he did so, that was an end of it because the prosecution were bound by his answers.

Their Lordships were unable to accept that submission. They did not think that the cross-examination of Gray had been in the expectation that the witness was going to admit or adopt what was in Evans' interview.

The general effect of it, whatever the intention, seemed to have been to elevate the significance of what Evans had said in interview and to denigrate the witness' answers disagreeing with what Evans had said in interview.

That cross-examination had the effect of elevating the interview of Evans and giving it a status which it did not merit and did not in fact enjoy.

If such questioning was a not infrequent practice, as Mr Van der Bijl indicated, it should not be continued.

Of course it could not be said that it was never appropriate to ask a witness a question about what appeared in the interview of a co-defendant.

There might be particular circumstances in which it was appropriate, but as *Windas* showed it was certainly inappropriate to use such an inadmissible document as though it were evidence in the case against the defendant being cross-examined.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Kent.

Holiday changes must be 'necessary'

Williams v Travel Promotions Ltd (trading as Voyages Jules Verne)

Before Lord Justice Schiemann and Sir Brian Neill

[Judgment February 19]

In the true construction of the booking conditions in a travel brochure, a tour operator was entitled to make only such changes to a holidaymaker's agreed itinerary as were "necessary" and was entitled to change the hotel at which the holidaymaker had chosen to stay only in the event of overbooking.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Peter David Williams, against the decision of Judge Byrt, QC, in the Mayor's and City of London Court on February 17, 1997, whereby he had dismissed the plaintiff's application to set aside the county court arbitration award of Judge Samuels which had dismissed his action against the defendants, Travel Promotions Ltd, in respect of their "Flight of Angels" holiday to the Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

The booking condition, contained in the defendants' travel brochure *Classic Journeys* (volume 1 (1994-19950 p2)) provided:

"The tours scheduled in this brochure are planned many months in advance and sometimes changes may be necessary. Travel Promotions Ltd reserve the right to make changes. Your rights depend on the type of change. Alterations are either 'significant' or 'minor'. Travel Promotions Ltd has the right to make 'minor' changes at any time...

"Due to demand for flights, hotels and accommodation, over which even Travel Promotions has no control, it is not always possible to guarantee particular departure domestic flights, the aircraft type and/or the hotels featured on a particular departure date, or the precise itinerary. We therefore have to reserve the right to change any flight or hotel listed and, if necessary, even to modify the itinerary itself without prior notice...

"No compensation is payable in such circumstances, nor does it confer the right of cancellation..."

Mr Williams in person; Mr Alan Saggerson for the defendants.

SIR BRIAN NEILL said that in August 1994 the plaintiff saw the defendants' brochure and booked a "Flight of Angels" holiday tour to the Victoria Falls from December 24 to January 4, 1995. That involved flying into and out of Livingstone, Zambia and crossing into Zimbabwe.

The plaintiff chose to stay at the Sprayview Hotel in Victoria Falls for eight nights. A few days before the departure date he received a letter from the defendants which stated that to avoid an early morning return to Livingstone on January 4, he would be taken to the Intercontinental Hotel, Livingstone on January 3 for an overnight stay there.

The plaintiff went on the tour and on the afternoon before his return he had to transfer to the Intercontinental Hotel, causing him considerable inconvenience and annoyance. He claimed against the defendants £148 damages for the loss of one half day holiday and inconvenience resulting from the hotel move.

By their defence the defendants relied upon the conditions in their brochure.

The plaintiff submitted that on a proper construction of the conditions any change had to be shown to necessary and that there was no evidence of necessity. He further submitted that any change in the provision of accommodation or of hotels had to be shown to be due to over-booking.

The defendants submitted that, reading the conditions as a whole, minor changes did not have to be shown to be necessary; and that, in any event, the word "necessary" was to be construed widely as meaning changes which were reasonably required in the interests of delivering the service or for the proper performance of the contract. The reference to overbooking was merely illustrative of the circumstances in which changes to hotels could be made.

His Lordship said the plaintiff was correct in saying that the changes contemplated in the brochure were changes which were necessary. The word occurred in the opening sentence of the conditions and the reader was invited to understand that sometimes changes might be necessary.

It might have been sensible for the defendants to have included a different form of words making it clear to the reader that they had a wider discretion to make changes whenever that was reasonably required or sensible. But they had chosen to use the word "necessary".

Moreover, the reference to hotels in the conditions was not merely illustrative. The conditions did not contemplate a move from one hotel to another unless that was caused by over-booking.

Accordingly, his Lordship would decide the issue of liability in favour of the plaintiff.

Lord Justice Schiemann delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Willis & Co.

Honest use of same name no breach

Scandecor Development AB and Scandecor Marketing Ltd and Another

Before Mr Justice Lloyd

[Judgment January 23]

A defendant company charged with infringing a plaintiff's trade mark could rely on the statutory defence in section 11(2)(a) of the Trademarks Act 1994 where the trademark was the same as the defendant company's name, provided that the use of that name by the defendant company was in accordance with honest practices in industrial or commercial matters, for which the test was objective.

Mr Justice Lloyd so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division, in considering, inter alia, an application by the plaintiff company, Scandecor Development AB, for an injunction restraining the second defendant company, Scandecor Ltd, from using the trademark "Scandecor" of which the plaintiff was the registered proprietor.

Mr Murray Rosen, QC, Mr Alan Gourgey and Mr Denis Daly for the plaintiff; Mr David Young, QC and Mr Adrian Speck for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE LLOYD said that *Mercury Communications Ltd v Mercury Interactive (UK) Ltd* ([1995] FSR 850) showed that the statutory defence applied to the use of the word as a trade mark. That case had been decided under the Trademarks Act 1938 under which the condition of the defence was that it be "any bona fide use". That was held to be a subjective question in the *Mercury* case.

In *The European Ltd v The Economist Newspaper Ltd* ([1996] FSR 431) Mr Justice Rattee had said that the test under section 11(2) of the 1994 Act had to be objective. His Lordship agreed.

In *NAD Electronics Inc v NAD Computer Systems Ltd* ([1997] FSR 380) Mr Justice Ferris held that neither section 8 of the 1938 Act nor section 11(2) of the 1994 Act afforded a defence since in that case the full corporate name (but for Ltd) had not been used and he questioned whether the defence applied to the use of the corporate name of an artificial person such as a company.

In his Lordship's judgment it did. A company name adopted for the purpose of trading on someone else's goodwill would not satisfy the honest use test. A name adopted years before the question arose and used consistently in ordinary commercial ways could be a proper subject of the defence just as could the proper name of a natural person.

Solicitors: Morgan Lewis & Bockius; Reynolds Porter Chamberlain.

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16,602.80	Abbey Natl	1175	-72	3.3	17.7
5,370.00	Alliance & Leic	905½	-58½	2.9	18.0
6,458.80	Allied Irish	763½	-23½	2.4	
6,024.00	Aus New Z	404	-13½	5.0	
37,955.10	Bank America†	4657½	-40½		
8,069.30	Bank Scotland	660	-32½	1.7	18.3
27,045.60	Barclays†	1770	-34	2.6	17.2
5,670.60	Bk of Ireland	1140	-24½	1.8	25.0
36,409.20	Citicorp	7946½	+165½		
6,520.50	Commerzbk	1616½	-6½	2.8	
16,029.30	Dai Ichi Kan Y	512½		0.8	
20,610.70	Deutsche Bk	4100	-16½	1.5	
471.50	Espirito Santo	1190½	+6½	3.1	
15,021.00	Fuji Bank Y	518½	-47	0.8	
16,204.00	HSBC	1854	-12	3.4	14.6
31,895.40	HSBC HK	1770	-19	3.6	13.9
22,565.50	Halifax	937	-9	3.4	24.7
701.70	Irish Perm†	816	-21½	2.0	
49,058.70	Lloyds TSB†	909	-5	2.4	24.2
12,256.40	Nat Aust Bk	820	-20	4.8	
18,705.60	Nat West†	1080	-17½	3.7	23.0
2,737.30	Northern Rock	516½	+43	2.2	23.0
7,895.00	Ryl Bk Scot	903	-37	3.0	17.7
9,500.10	Stand Chart	856	-21	2.7	13.6
16,061.10	Wells Fargo	£184½		1.9	
7,453.80	Westpac	418½	-2½	3.5	
5,923.70	Woolwich	370	-11½	3.3	15.3

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
7,930.00	Bass▼	1000	-18	3.4	17.9
15.70	Bit. for the Bdr	58½	+1	4.1	17.5
31.70	Burtonwood Brw	152½		5.7	13.4
223.30	City Centre Rest	115	-1	2.7	17.9
3,015.10	Compass Gp†	917	+37½	1.3	31.9
62.90	Eldridge P A	298½	+17	2.6	15.1
218.30	Enterprise Inns	302½		3.1	16.7
64.80	Fuller Sm A	462½		2.8	14.9
1,282.30	Greenalls Grp	433½	+19	4.8	10.8
354.10	Greene King	717½	-3½	2.9	14.7
22.30	Grosvenor Inns†	226½		3.5	29.7
60.10	Groupe Chez Ger	321½	-4	1.2	25.9
43.30	Hardy Hansn	216½	+2	6.6	9.4
56.40	Holt J	2015		3.7	11.3
50.30	Inn Business†	65½	-1½	3.6	
18.80	Mansfield	28½	-5½	3.2	11.7
243.00	Marston Thmp	268½	+9½	3.9	9.5
138.90	Morland	427½	-1½	2.9	10.8
84.80	Old Eng Pub	326	+15½	0.9	25.8
3.03	Pacmount	25½	-½		
531.70	PizzaExpress†	802	+7	0.6	36.2
30.20	Ransdens (JD)	325	-2½	1.9	30.2
299.30	Regent Inns†	335½	+6½	1.3	24.0
101.30	SFI†	172½	-3	0.6	30.1
5,302.40	Scot & New	658	-16	3.2	17.2
327.70	Vaux Group	229	-15½	6.1	9.7
554.90	Wetherspoon JD	384	+2	0.9	32.8
4,979.00	Whitbread	1012	+32	3.0	17.3
310.10	Wolvrhmptn D	507½	+5	4.6	11.5
260.70	Yates Bros	406	-8	0.9	29.4
18.60	Young A	842½		3.0	26.6

BUILDING MATERIALS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
675.50	Aggregate Inds	56	-¼	4.5	23.0
1,796.70	BPB	349	+20	3.5	16.0
40.40	Baggeridge Brk	98½	+2	4.4	13.3
14.80	Blockleys	59½		0.3	
2,908.50	Blue Circle	371	+15½	4.3	15.5
29.90	Breedon PLC	108½	-1	6.0	14.8
31.50	Br Dredging	180	+2½	4.3	13.7
3,160.50	CRH	812½	+61½	1.3	
3.37	Cakebread Rby	55½	+3	7.0	5.5
61.10	Cape	112½	-1	6.7	8.8
1,041.00	Caradon	201	+1	5.9	9.9
200.70	Caradon pf	111½	+1	8.1	
11.20	Chelsfain Gp	130½	+12	4.2	
3.61	Dyson (J&J)	218½		3.3	13.0
16.10	Dyson A	116½		6.2	7.0
26.40	Ennstone	58	+13½		
36.90	Epwin	168½	+21½	7.6	
1.78	Gibbs & Dandy	104½		4.6	11.1
217.40	Graham Grp	177	+6½	4.3	
76.00	Halstead (J)	247½		4.9	17.5
2,162.60	Hanson	332	+25	4.6	34
576.20	Hepworth	235	+10	6.6	16.1
19.80	Hewetson	121½		6.6	8.0
202.70	Heywd Wlm	233	+2	7.7	9.2
253.80	Ibstock	54½	+8	4.6	20.5
33.70	Johnston	315		4.8	11.5
26.60	Lilleshall	93½		6.9	
344.10	Marley	101½	-9	5.6	9.9
166.90	Marshalls†	133½	+8½	4.9	16.7
638.00	Meyer Intl	400	+20½	3.8	14.9
112.10	Menzies	67½	+1	3.5	14.8
1,259.10	Pilkington	121	+6	4.8	15.5
312.20	Polypipe	185½	+3	2.2	13.9
33.60	Quiggins	17	-6½		14.5
2,566.90	RMC Gp	985	+59	3.2	13.8
39.40	Reberoid	81½	+½	7.5	15.1
901.40	Rugby Group	123½	-4	3.8	24.2
20.10	Russell (A)	80½		4.3	12.2
261.60	SIG	221½	+½	4.2	11.3
7.10	SMP	2¾			15.0
50.70	Sharpe & Fisher	235½		3.3	14.7
88.50	Spring Ram	19½	-½	0.6	
119.70	Streamline Hldgs	191½	+6½	5.7	11.7
987.10	Tarmac	105	+4	8.5	13.3
9.52	Tilon	86½		7.5	9.2
606.20	Travis Perkins	579	+30½	2.2	20.3
9.16	Tudor	73½	+5	4.5	14.6
762.20	Ultraframe	282½	-11½	1.5	28.9
3,180.30	Wolseley	556	+56	2.6	17.9

CHEMICALS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
539.20	Albright & Wil	172	+12½	4.7	17.9
1,902.70	Allied Colloids	203½	+1	2.0	27.5
17.20	Amber Ind	110		6.5	8.7
62.30	Amberley Gp	95½	-1	2.2	16.1
13,237.80	BASF DM	2140½	-9½	2.6	
4,801.90	BOC	996	+35	3.4	17.0
601.40	BTP	356½	+5½	4.2	17.1
16,970.00	Bayer DM50	2487½	-9½	2.3	
81.10	Brent Chems	120	+12½	3.4	12.8
640.70	Br Vita	289	+28½	3.7	15.5
102.40	Brunner Mond	134½	+3½	8.3	7.2
78.10	Canning (W)	271	+1½	4.1	13.0
91.10	Cry Technology	187	+7	2.6	36.1
1,452.40	Courtaulds	364½	+13	4.5	15.6
576.70	Croda	425	+30½	2.8	17.9
35.20	Doeflex	204½		4.9	8.8
334.40	Elementis	124	-5½		21.7
260.40	Ellis & Everard†	290		4.4	12.4
27.10	Euro Colour	60½	+4	5.0	10.8
18.90	Gibbon	177½	+4	4.9	12.0
145.70	Hickson	84½	-8½	1.2	
13,662.40	Hoechst	2325	-75	2.0	
215.40	Holliday Chem	262	+4	2.7	18.9
8,591.50	ICI†	1113	+24	2.9	41.9
353.90	Inspec	225½	+22	3.8	10.0
673.30	Kalon	175	+7½	3.9	22.2
1,497.20	Laporte	723½	-61	4.0	14.6
37.90	Macfars	245		5.9	30.6
10.10	Merolem	51½	-2½	5.3	6.8
7.15	Wholect	31½		4.2	8.0
44.30	Porvair	363	+5½	2.1	
46.10	Scapa	190½	-4	3.8	10.3
27.60	Suckle Speak	18½		7.9	8.0
14,532.70	Zeneca Chem	1651½	-27½	0.4	29.6
139.40	Victor	342½		2.3	21.9
50.20	Wolstenholme R	£17½	-2½	5.3	11.6
174.20	York Grp	227½	+13½	5.1	
511.60	Yule Catto	337½	+7½	3.5	14.3

CONSTRUCTION

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
7.55	AAF Inds	30½	-2		
114.30	Abbey	295		2.8	22.2
166.40	Allen	401	+6	2.8	19.7
52.20	Amec	158	+18½	3.4	
161.70	Ancy	557½		2.2	20.6
355.10	Andrews Sykes	955	+2½	1.7	21.3
656.40	Ashtead	220	+10½	1.3	27.4
15.70	Avonside	38½	+1½	4.9	8.0
7.90	Baird	26½	-1½	5.7	12.7
37.55	Barcom	79		4.5	16.9
677.10	Barratt Devs	288	-13	4.2	13.5
126.10	Beazer	215	+4½	3.8	13.8
416.40	Bellway	356	+1½	2.9	13.2
11.90	Belwarth	24½	+1½		8.4
5.88	Bim Bailey	65½	-4½	3.1	9.2
8.75	Berkeley Gp	704½	-3	1.7	12.4
24.60	Bett Bros	160		5.3	4.8
7.20	Ecol (Henry)	270		3.8	10.6
258.30	Bovis Homes	229		3.0	10.2
12.60	Brandon Hire	114	+1½	3.3	15.2
5.52	Brianmo Grp	36½	+1½	3.1	7.0
410.10	Bryant	143½	-5½	4.4	13.2
55.20	CALA	118½	+½	4.1	7.3
4.18	Carroll & Arm	4			
13.30	Clarke T	108½	-12	7.3	
101.10	Costain	30	-1½		
38.40	Countryside	115½		3.3	10.7
170.40	Crest Nicholson	119	-4½	4.0	9.9
15.00	Dunsby	106½	-3½	5.0	10.6
15.30	Eve Group†	162½		4.1	12.0
23.60	Galliford	21½	+1½	6.2	12.2
109.60	Gleeson (MJ)	1035	+5	2.2	17.0
43.20	Havelock Euro	165	+17½	3.7	10.0
421.50	Heywood-Stuart	173	+8½	2.5	23.2
6.07	Howard Hldgs	33	+1	5.4	22.8
655.20	Jarvis	596	-7½	1.4	30.6
17.50	Keller	210½	+5	2.9	14.6
56.50	Kier	215½	+13	2.7	11.5
155.70	Laing (J)	337	-21½	3.6	28.4
48.80	Laing 6.4% Cv Pf	121½		6.6	
3.58	Lovell (YJ)	13	-½		
41.50	Manders (J)	165½		4.8	10.1
133.20	McAlpine (A)	159	+7½	5.5	22.6
139.40	McCarthy & S	138½	-½	2.7	12.9
21.93	Mowlem	27	+7		
62.20	Morgan Sindall	203½	-4	3.3	
24.70	Morrison Cons	330		2.1	17.9
162.60	Mowlem (J)	92	+1	4.7	9.1
423.90	Persimmon	241½	-2½	5.0	12.2
12.30	Peterhouse	80½	-3	6.1	18.2
21.30	Prowting	117		2.7	13.6
105.50	Prowting	132½	+½	4.0	12.2
48.20	Rendix	181	-2	2.5	15.9
5.00	Spundor	28½		1.1	16.2
59.50	Swan Hill	86		3.8	
41.60	Tay Homes	142½	-10	6.6	12.6
308.50	Taylor Woodrw	203	-1	2.3	15.6
190.10	Tilbury Dougls	225	+3	5.2	14.0
17.10	Try Group	25	+2½	3.1	
52.60	Wandflow	71	-1½	7.1	
33.60	Warnhomes	138½	+3½	4.6	13.3
7.63	Ward Hldgs†	52½	+1½	6.3	7.4
239.80	Westbury	276	+2½	3.1	13.7
89.30	Wiggins	12½			18.7
334.50	Wilson (C)	168	+5½	3.7	17.0
371.40	Wilson Bowdn	610½	-8	2.3	16.0
45.00	Wimpey G	138	-6	5.6	10.5

DISTRIBUTORS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
65.10	Adam Gp Scts	201½	-1	1.6	20.3
12.40	Adam & Harvey	311½	+4	9.1	4.7
7.45	Alexanders	18½			
2.00	Ars Br Eng	1¼			68.6

(continued)

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
113.00	BSS Group	425	..	6.2	12.8
5.92	Bearing Power	16½	+2		
2.00	Bogod A	34½		3.3	5.5
357.50	Bunzl	552½	-3½	3.7	13.3
4.60	Bodgend Gp	11½		2.2	52.5
22.00	Brit Fittings	86½	+7	6.6	6.9
11.40	Calyx	345		4.7	7.9
67.40	Car Group	176½	-1	3.3	16.7
40.40	Caverdale	135½	-1	3.5	7.8
36.20	Charles Sidney	87		4.5	12.4
19.80	Cook (DC)	45½		6.7	6.5
22.70	Dagi Motors	109	-2½	9.2	7.1
19.70	Denmans El	111½	+4	3.4	8.7
125.10	Diploma	296½	+10	7.7	9.6
2,156.50	Electrocomponts	503½	+41	2.0	27.1
10.10	Eurocopyt	20½	+1	14.8	3.4
100.00	Eurodis Elect	170	-4½	3.9	29.2
48.40	European Mtr	90		8.2	7.0
81.90	Evans Halshaw	255	-9	8.1	
6.58	Fife Indmar	42½		10.0	6.9
316.00	Finelist Grp	399	+8	2.6	15.8
28.80	Gardiner	24½	+½	5.2	10.3
19.40	Glenchewton	64½	-1	3.0	10.5
9.92	Gowrings	111½	+9	3.5	18.5
28.60	HR Owen	17½	-2½	5.2	11.8
236.30	Headlam	347	-3½	2.2	21.0
6.00	Holders Tech	150		5.4	12.2
39.60	ISA Intl	96½	-2½	4.4	7.4
1,232.20	Inchcape	232½	+44	5.5	27.2
6.21	Jacks (Wm)	57½		5.4	7.4
700.70	Kwik-Fit	335	+11½	1.9	21.7
542.40	Lex Service	474½	-3½	4.7	11.8
38.10	Lookers	114		9.5	7.3
241.20	Menzies (John)†	428½	+38½	4.0	13.9
36.40	Middlesex	4½		2.8	11.0
8.93	Midsales	17		3.5	
27.50	Norbain	250	+1½	4.4	10.1
84.40	Northamber	247½	-1	1.5	16.4
233.80	Parco	322½	-3	3.4	
178.40	Pendragon	293½	+30	4.3	12.9
45.80	Perry Gp	185½	+11	6.2	8.2
1,098.60	Premier Farnell	404½	+11	3.9	15.0
47.70	Quicks Group	126½		7.4	8.4
22.80	REA	245	+10	2.0	54.1
3.54	Reece	2			66.9
13.30	Ring	33½			
7.17	Ronson	8	-4		
6.65	Ross Gp	4½	-½		
30.40	Ryland	107		5.3	
28.20	SEP Indl	28½	+1½	5.5	14.8
4.92	Saltire	19	+1	7.9	
84.20	Sedgemoor	50	+½	4.2	12.6
52.50	Symer	239½	-4	3.6	11.2
95.20	Time Products	190	-2½	8.2	7.8
30.30	Trust Motor Grp	302	+6	7.0	8.9
65.20	UMECO	412½	+22½	1.8	22.0
124.00	United Carriers Gp	100	-2	0.5	22.2
154.20	Vardy (Reg)	263½	+7	3.6	12.6
114.90	WF Elect	766	+1	2.6	23.5
35.80	Whatman	38½		2.8	10.4
107.50	Wyko†	152	+4½	2.7	14.3
32.30	Young (H)	143½	-½	4.0	10.2

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
502.90	Antofagasta	320	+11½	2.0	16.4
191.30	Ascot Hldgs	235	+3	2.8	10.3
12,538.10	Broken Hill	631	+31	3.3	16.8
20,320.20	BAT	649	+43	5.0	16.0
1,062.80	Brierley Inv	39½	-1½	8.3	9.2
1,565.90	Cookson	227½	+1	4.1	11.9
27.80	Cosalt	226	-½	6.2	9.0
460.70	DCC	598	-32½	1.8	20.5
2,380.80	Gallaher	345	-11	7.0	10.8
14,414.40	Hutch Whamp	398½	-29	3.0	24.0
2,188.20	Imperial Tob	420	-7	6.4	10.3
2,093.60	Jardine Math	279½	-4½	5.5	10.8
739.20	Lonrho†	93	-1	6.4	17.0
101.10	McLeod Russel	161½	-1	5.4	11.7
451.20	Powell Duffryn	521	+2	6.0	13.6
151.30	Staveley	130	+2	8.7	17.0
3,332.20	Swire Pacific	343½	-19½	4.1	
487.00	TT Group	287	+½	3.5	11.7
4,283.40	Tomkins†	363	-12	3.3	15.4
45.50	Undare†	230		7.1	11.7
115.90	Wardle Storeys	455	+5	5.8	13.9
587.80	Wassall	377½	+37½	2.3	16.9
60.70	Whitecroft	135½	+2½	4.3	21.9

ELECTRICITY

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
3,017.00	Br Energy	431	-17	4.1	42.5
4,376.40	Energy Group	840	+62	3.1	16.9
4,635.90	National Grid▼	331	-11	4.3	13.1
7,125.10	National Power	584½	-45	6.0	7.9
5,192.20	PowerGen	805	-43½	4.1	12.2
2,047.50	Hydro-Electr	523	-23½	4.3	12.0
5,997.80	Scottish Power†	507	-11	4.7	12.6
2,448.40	Southern Elec	512	-½	5.4	13.7
689.10	Viridian†	526	-17½	5.1	36.8

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
66.10	Acal	329		3.8	10.7
143.70	Acorn	156½	+1		
594.40	Admiral	937½	+85	0.4	
28.60	Amstrad†	37	-1½	1.7	
20.80	Arlen	29½		5.1	7.7
280.40	Astec	128½		2.1	13.3
64.00	Atlas	60	+11½		
651.00	BICC	158	+24½	6.6	
7.47	Bailes Harter	78½	+½	18.1	6.9
91.50	Bkst†	295		5.9	10.1
832.00	Bowthorpe	412½	+12	3.1	16.5
4.19	Bulgin A	15½	-¼	6.0	19.1
31.70	CML Micro	199½	-5½	3.8	23.8
13.70	Channel Hldgs†	15	+1	13.8	4.7
87.40	Chloride	40	+½	2.2	9.6
20.70	Clayhithe	101½	+5	4.4	11.2
121.20	Critchley	752½	+2½	2.2	20.2
436.50	Delta	282½	+9	6.5	10.8
110.10	Domino†	435	+2½	3.5	15.2
111.40	Dowding Mills	73	+4½	5.5	12.4
79.00	Druck	252½	-5	0.9	27.2
3,281.60	Electrolux 'B'	4606½	-153½	2.1	
20.60	Emess	19½		2.6	12.9
21,997.60	Ericsson 'B'	2512½	-46½	0.8	
344.90	Eurotherm	379	+5	3.3	16.7
578.10	Farnell Group	575	+30	1.9	17.4
237.20	Fillmoint	526	-10	0.4	36.4
2.76	Forward Tech	8	-1½	3.9	
11,447.00	GEC†	421	+24	4.0	19.4
81.00	Ind Control	47½	+½	1.3	
7.12	Intelek†	17	-2	7.2	
13.90	Kode	146½		0.6	
6.58	LPA Ind	64½	-2	4.4	23.8
6.81	Microvitec	8½	-½	13.3	
449.60	Misys	425			
59.10	Nelvest Tech†	164½	+½	0.9	19.1
146.50	Oxford Instr	293½	-12½	3.3	10.3
84.70	Pace Micro†	39½	+2	6.3	
15,138.50	Philips Lmp ev	4471½	-243½	1.1	
11.10	Plasmon	57	-½	2.2	
145.30	Premier	230	+5½	1.9	21.2
33.40	Prestwick	57½	+½	2.4	16.0
228.20	Psion	306	-114	1.0	
836.90	Racal Elect	289½		2.6	54.5
11.10	Radamec	59½	-5	6.5	9.7
276.30	Renishaw	379½	+27½	3.0	22.0
3.81	Redline	1½			
113.50	Roxboro	202	-1	4.2	12.5
93.20	SDX Bus Sys	262½	+14	1.1	31.4
26.50	Senotronic	237½		4.2	14.3
33.20	Silvermines	39½	+½	4.4	10.9
6,086.70	TDK	4588½	-106½	0.5	
14.80	TGI	68	-4	6.5	7.1
199.00	TLG	106	+4	4.8	12.5
17.90	Tadpole Tech	33	-2½		
39.60	Telemetrix	43	+1½	4.2	18.6
93.60	Telspec	292½	-12½		
17.70	Thorpe FW	137½	-10	4.1	8.5
13.50	Total Systems	131½	+6	1.3	28.4
38.60	Turnstall	117	+3	5.5	
226.20	Venty	77½	+8	0.2	
65.50	Vero	109	-½	6.7	8.6
43.30	Vislon Technology	35½		1.4	
132.40	Volex	471	+3	5.7	12.9

ENGINEERING

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
33.40	ABI	270	+2½	3.5	12.7
29.60	ASW	35½	-2½		
63.90	Abbrenst	157½	-10	6.7	7.2
104.50	Alvis	140½	+8½	3.1	17.9
61.10	Ash & Lacy	163½	-½	5.7	8.0
7.00	Ayrshire Metal	70		9.8	3.9
1,787.80	BBA	428	-5	2.0	21.4
7,771.00	BTR	190	+29½	5.2	10.7
33.40	BWI	82½	-1	6.1	9.1
132.10	Babcock	78	-3½	2.0	
4.12	Bailey (CH)	7½		4.2	
137.30	Baynes (Charles)	93	+3	4.5	9.7
11.80	Beaufort	15	+½	6.7	7.0
12.00	Benson Group	35	+1½	5.4	33.1
311.70	Bodycote	204	+11	3.4	11.7
206.50	Bonds Cv Un Ln	89½	+2½	5.7	
1,055.00	Bodycote	1042½	+15	1.0	30.6
3.40	Booth Inds	42½			
14.70	Boxmoor†	18½		6.2	8.3
77.20	Brockhouse	122½	-4	4.6	15.9
8,423.50	Br Aerospace	1932	+24	1.3	19.5
2,977.40	Br Steel	153	+7½	8.2	14.0
11.10	Brown Indl	145½		4.3	
15.90	Brunel	13	-1	4.8	6.0
116.60	Bullough†	96		7.6	9.9
26.50	Carbo	33½		4.5	
113.00	Carclo Engt	183½	-4	7.3	11.0
93.70	Castings	215½		3.0	12.4
14.40	Chamberlin Hill	195	+5	5.2	8.8
606.50	Charter	630½	+14	5.6	9.3
30.20	Chemring	127½	+15	2.9	
27.40	Clyde Blowers	296½	-2½	3.4	56.6
829.90	Cobham	898½	+11	1.7	24.9
3.20	Cohen (A)	400			
61.40	Concentric	112½	+2½	8.1	23.3
141.10	David Brown	212½	-2½	5.1	12.6
154.40	ES	262½	-2	5.8	10.0
6.47	Elecs	16½	-½		
42.10	Elliott (B)	106½		3.7	14.1
83.50	Ensmrd	131½		3.4	14.8
1,089.20	FKI	192	-13	3.5	17.5
178.90	Fenner	174½	+6	3.0	13.9
2.52	Firth Rixson†	1½			
31.40	Firth Hldgs	39½	+3½	0.8	20.1
188.90	Firth Rixson†	133	+6	3.5	16.3
11.70	Flare	50	-2½	3.1	3.5
37.50	GEI Intl	89	-3½	5.7	10.1
6.10	Gaston Eng	156½		6.5	5.6
625.30	Glynwed	254	-1	6.3	10.7
121.10	Hadyn MacLn	106½	+5	3.4	12.3
14.20	Hadleigh	190	-17½	4.6	9.0
95.30	Hall Eng	178½	-5½	5.6	7.5
409.40	Halma	113½	-6	2.7	15.4
77.80	Hampson Ind	68	-3½	4.6	13.9
6.08	Hay (Norman)	40½	+4	17.2	
6.28	Headway	44½	-½	4.5	6.0
17.20	Hill & Smith	43½	-3½	12.1	11.0
40.70	How Gp	56½	+4½	2.8	15.7
228.30	Hughling	229	+5	2.9	15.2
1,567.40	IMI	449½	+28½	3.4	16.2
1,196.40	Johnson Matth	551½	+24	2.9	13.4
7.07	Jones Stephen	27½	-1	6.8	11.3
12.90	Kelsey Ind	415		9.4	7.1
35.60	Lopca	3½	+6	3.6	11.7
23.00	Locker (T)	28½	-2	4.3	10.5
6.17	MS Intl	11		3.3	
73.40	Mang Bronze	412½	-6	2.9	11.3
513.40	McKechnie	483	+27½	4.4	13.0
388.10	Meggitt	178½	+19	3.1	23.6
101.50	Metalrax	83½	-1½	5.6	12.7
30.90	Metaltech	13½	-¾		
22.90	Metsec	147½		3.6	8.6
103.60	Molins	385	-21	9.0	12.5
1,059.30	Morgan Crble	463	+22	4.0	15.3
47.50	Morris Ashby	332½		3.0	13.4
13.60	Neepsend	54		4.6	11.7
18.30	Polyhedron	53½		9.2	7.2
206.10	Powerscreen	219½	-9	6.0	5.7
63.60	Quadramatic	177½	-1	7.2	8.9
3.10	Readicut Grp	50			
0.82	Radiant Metal	60			
82.50	Ransomes	68½		1.1	24.8
168.30	Renold	242	+½	3.4	9.8
26.90	Richardson West	74	+1	7.3	6.8
3,997.50	Rolls-Royce	267½	+35½	2.8	19.9
242.50	Rotork	282	+6	3.7	20.1

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
104.60	Adwest	136	+2½	6.2	9.8
13.20	Airflow Stream	155	-1	6.5	11.2
179.70	Avon Rubber	656	+3½	3.5	14.7
55.70	Barloch	327½	-12½	2.7	16.4
404.90	Britax	136	+1	3.2	17.7
164.90	Dennis	294½		3.9	13.6
160.00	First Tech	335½		1.5	23.5
5,469.30	GKN	1545	+76	2.8	
31,755.10	General Mtr	4409½	+218½	2.8	
227.90	Henlys	427½	-15	4.5	10.2
20,517.70	Honda Motor	2165½	-2½	0.4	
828.50	Laird	442	+5	3.2	12.1
3,357.90	LucasVarity	239	+5	2.1	15.2
519.50	Mayflower	205½	+9	1.7	19.9
23.90	Sytnor	98½	-½	8.2	8.2
1,406.00	T & N	257	+2	4.5	14.9
8.03	Toad	27½			

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5,625.00	AB Food	625	-9	2.0	20.0
102.30	Acatos & Hutch†	233½	+7½	5.6	24.6
201.60	Albert Fisher	28	-½	15.0	7.3
24.00	Banks (S C)†	255	+12½	5.6	9.3
94.10	Barr (AG)	485	-5	2.8	12.6
20.10	Bensons Crisp	39½	-1	5.0	8.5
576.40	Booker	232½	-8½	12.9	
357.30	Brake Bros	888½	+16	1.9	23.6
13.00	CPL Aromas	99	+6½	6.1	35.5
7,941.90	Cadbury-Schw	784	+11½	2.3	20.8
18.50	Carrs Milling	231	+16	6.2	7.9
76.80	Caragrant	114½	+1	4.0	20.2
35.00	Cranswick	245	+5½	5.3	11.7
341.80	Dairy Crest Group	309	-2½	4.1	13.0
975.10	Dalgety	335	-2½	3.6	
53.60	Devalls SV	48½	+8	0.8	27.0
700.10	Devro	439½	-22	2.5	19.7
125.20	Finlay (James)	125	+9	3.6	22.9
311.90	Geest	428½	-6½	2.5	20.0
14.20	Global	9½		8.6	5.0
587.90	Greencore	313		2.8	17.2
427.00	Hazlewood Fds	183½	-2½	4.8	13.2
1,233.00	Hillsdown	169	+10	7.4	10.1
24.40	JLI Group	82½		9.9	13.0
79.80	Linton Park	401	-1	5.0	8.6
117.00	Matthews (B)	94	+4	5.6	9.0
80.40	Nichols (V)	211½	-4	4.3	11.9
1,699.10	Nitro Foods†	290	+18	4.2	16.6
10.10	Northdown Fn	16½	-1½	1.5	8.4
21.00	Paramount Foods	111½	+3	6.0	
1.80	Pascoe's	57			62.4
208.80	Perkins Food	133	+7½	3.5	
23.80	Plant & Gen	74	+3½	2.7	
5.08	Sealey Farm	87½	-4	9.4	8.2
9.66	Sims Food	28			3.0
2,302.70	Tate & Lyle	515½	-10½	3.6	13.9
14.50	Tresd	143½	-6½	5.4	15.4
1,524.90	Unigate	637½	-13	4.1	15.4
18,587.70	Unilever	570	+20	1.9	25.0
25,985.30	Unilever (NV)	4043½	+137½	1.6	
1,448.80	Utd Biscuits	273	+1½	4.6	21.2
45.10	WT Foods	56	+2	3.3	21.5

HEALTHCARE

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,083.20	Alnce UniChem	382½	-13	3.0	29.5
25.00	Ascoc Nurs	153½		3.1	24.2
220.60	Bespak	868½	+1	1.8	24.9
127.80	Biocomps Intl	172½	-15		
73.50	Care UK	159½		1.0	18.5
48.30	Celsis	48½	-3		
167.10	Community H	463½	+12	3.2	17.0
52.20	CrestaCare	27½	+½	4.7	
2.07	Euromed	8			
16.30	Ferraris Group	144½	+4½	2.8	13.5
52.10	Gyrus	168	-1½		
72.40	Huntlgh Tec	147½	-7½	2.5	18.6
38.90	Innovative Tech	105½	-6		
24.10	Mercari Gp	85	-1½	5.3	13.5
67.70	Isotron	537½	-41½	1.5	19.1
598.60	Lon Intl	173½	-2½	2.0	23.3
185.20	Nestor Hlth	214	-4½	2.1	26.0
2,187.30	Nycomed Amsh	2255	-40	0.8	50.7
0.43	Premier Health#	5½			
203.70	Scholl	291	-2½	3.4	18.3
310.00	Seton Health	557½	+2	2.0	21.8
135.00	Shield Diag	675	+25		
39.20	Skeltsr Mont	223	+½		48.5
1,978.30	Smith & Neph	178	+1	3.6	16.1
21.50	Tranals	2½		4.6	15.5
250.00	West Hlthcare†	376½	+6½	2.3	17.1

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
35.50	Airsprung	148½		5.4	9.5
81.60	Alba	183		4.6	9.5
2.47	Albion†	65	-6½	6.3	6.8
47.30	Alexandra W	140		5.9	13.0
128.00	Allied Textile	180½		5.9	11.8
5.62	Armourt	15	-½	6.2	32.3
11.20	BLP Group	170		4.4	8.4
289.20	Baird (Wm)	231½	+20	5.2	18.1
4.49	Bilston Bttrsr	32½		2.7	27.1
33.60	Black Arrow	135½	+½	4.0	11.2
253.80	Black (Peter)	414	-4	1.9	19.2
10.40	Bolssh Mohair	78½	+1	8.9	29.9
34.20	Claremont Garments	62½	+2½	14.5	
598.10	Coats Viyella	85	+½	11.9	12.3
72.90	Cornwell Pkr Sp	174½	-1	2.1	14.7
344.80	Courtaulds Textiles	332½	-9	5.8	30.2
6.07	Creighton	30½			
9.44	Dalkeen	9		10.0	
104.70	Dawson	53	+1½	9.6	
52.00	Denby Group	153½	-2	3.7	11.4
305.10	Dewhirst	231½	-1½	2.6	15.1
2.88	Dinkie Heel	22½		8.9	8.4
5.11	Drummond Group	24	-1½	10.4	6.4
45.60	Eclipse Blinds	109	-2	3.7	10.6
4.19	Ebel	33	-1	4.6	6.9
27.50	FII Group	118		4.3	3.9
3.63	Faupel Trading	31		8.2	6.3
0.90	Foster (J)	8	-½		
5.39	French	41½	-2	11.5	9.4
22.70	Gaskell	46½	+27½	1.5	15.7
15.40	Haggas (J)	70½		8.2	13.4
14.90	Hartstone Group	11	+½	5.5	25.2
81.60	Hicking Pentecost	257½	+10	3.7	14.5
4.70	Holiday Group	3½			
1.30	Honeysuckle Group	15½	-3		
26.80	House Small	78	+3½		
221.20	IWP Intl	315		2.0	14.1
4.44	Jacques Vert	14½	-½		
6.10	Jerome (S) & Sons	44½	-2½	8.9	10.5
51.00	Jones Stroud	295	-1½	4.8	12.5
15.80	Jourdan (T)	52½		3.6	
53.90	Kenwood App	117½	-1½		
32.20	Lambert Howarth	233	-8½	4.3	15.6
43.90	Lamont Hldgs	146	+1	11.0	12.1
40.40	Leeds Group	110½	-2½	7.5	7.0
4.72	Leslie Wise	13½	-1½	20.6	10.3
13.30	Lowbeart	15½	+1½	3.3	12.2
5.86	Lyles (S)	84	-5½	3.8	3.4
325.60	McBride	186½	-2½	4.3	13.1
24.90	Mayborn	105½	-1	5.3	15.7
34.70	Osborne & Little	560		2.7	11.1
3.88	PEX Group	2½			5.0
14.90	Parkland Group†	106½	-2½	7.7	
314.70	Paterson Zoch	472		4.6	11.0
95.50	Paterson Zch A	415	-2½	5.2	9.7
456.10	Portland Group	128	+5	3.5	19.2
21.60	Pifco	105		3.5	10.5
13.60	Pifco 'A' Vtg	137	-1½	4.2	9.8
11.40	Praams	52½	+1	8.3	3.6
10.20	Readicut Intl	39½	+½	8.2	11.6
4,314.20	Reckitt Colm	1060	-11½	2.5	19.2
113.20	Renon	507½	+27½	2.8	19.8
7.61	Richards	32½			
101.70	Royal Doulton	122½		6.6	10.5
4.93	SEET	31	-½		
43.30	Sherwood Group	39		11.5	38.7
5.61	Sirdar	93½	-1	5.3	6.5
126.70	Silentnight	275	-2½	4.7	12.0
33.20	Sirdar	61	+3	11.2	8.8
33.70	Surling Group	38½	+1½	7.8	9.0
6.63	Stoddard	10	-½	9.4	21.5
61.10	Stoves	235½	-5	3.2	15.5
26.60	Swallowfield	237½	+1	4.0	12.7
12.60	Tomkinsons	194	-9	7.4	10.1
3.43	UK Safety	9½	-½		17.3
10.10	Usher (F)	140		10.1	7.0
5.17	Victoria	76		4.1	13.3
36.20	Vymura	141		4.4	9.6
52.10	Walker Greenbk	43½	-1½	10.6	5.1
703.60	Wilshaw Wripol	97½	+3½	1.7	28.2
4.66	Wensum	60½		10.3	5.3
3.90	Wood (Arthur)	196		4.5	13.3
11.10	Yorklyde	99	-1	10.1	11.7

INSURANCE

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
8,861.50	Am Gen	3637½	-112½	2.5	
158.10	Angerstein	126½	+7	10.4	9.5
35.40	Brockbank†	55	-2	13.0	7.4
2,334.60	Britannic	1264	-31	3.4	17.2
121.50	CLM Insce	140	+4½	9.6	11.0
81.60	Charles Taylor	268½	-2	2.0	
7,486.50	Gen Union	1085	-13	3.1	22.6
363.30	Cox Insce	337	+32	1.1	24.9
183.00	Dom & Gen	535	+10	2.4	13.5
169.50	FBD IE	413½	+20½	2.2	14.7
46.90	Fairbury Under	148	+½	9.6	11.8
4,635.80	Gen Accident	1327	-36	3.6	9.2
3,885.80	GRE	423	-37½	2.8	6.3
297.70	Hibernian IE	554½	-8½	1.9	
293.50	Hiscox	193½	-6	1.9	33.9
45.00	Hiscox Select	150	+3	2.3	13.9
581.20	Independent	1252½	+30	1.4	33.3
1,389.10	Insh Life	444	-26½	3.1	14.4
288.10	Jardine Lyd Th	152½	-2½	8.8	12.7
27.90	Kiln Capital	109½		3.2	36.3
90.30	Lambert Fen	180½	-3	10.4	7.1
8,432.20	Legal & Gen	655	-16	2.2	17.2
4,266.40	Liberty Life	1746½	-7½	2.2	23.5
430.70	Lmst	176½	+13	4.4	10.7
688.70	Lon & Man	568½	-16½	4.7	13.5
7,009.50	Munich Mit.n	5162½	-63½	2.4	
41.30	Masthead	102½	+1	17.1	

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
157.90	Rubicon†	180	-6½	4.3	12.9
749.20	SKF 'B'	1175		3.4	
527.10	Senior Eng	173	+5½	2.6	21.0
102.20	Spirax-Sarc	516	+5	1.8	22.9
6,552.70	Siebe	1295	+38	1.2	23.0
87.20	Six Hundred	120	-½	6.2	8.5
2,763.00	Smiths Ind	900	-8	2.5	21.2
11.10	Solvera	15	-½	2.0	
452.60	Spirax-Sarco	570	-13	3.1	14.8
96.50	Sterling Ind	317½		4.1	11.6
2,627.50	TI	549	+24	3.1	17.5
18.70	Tinsley (E)	102½	-1	7.6	9.5
129.10	TransTec	68½	-1	4.5	9.4
185.40	Triplex Lloyd	277½		3.2	18.8
238.20	Ultra Electr	366½	-8½	2.5	
28.40	Utd Inds	63½		4.9	16.3
661.20	Vickers	201	-10	4.6	12.3
11.80	Villers Grp	10	+½		
283.80	Vitec	584	-37	2.7	11.1
250.20	Vosper Thorny	770	+1½	4.3	11.9
162.80	Wagon Ind	310	-1	4.8	13.8
580.60	Weir	290½	+20½	3.5	14.1
32.70	Wellington Hdg	138½	-1	7.3	8.0
71.60	Whitman	49		3.6	13.8
23.20	Wescol	60	+½	2.5	17.2
191.70	Whatman	776	+6	2.5	
5.51	Widney†	45½	+1½	9.6	14.2

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
49.20	New London Cap	82	-½	9.1	12.1
9,576.30	Norwich Union	498	-18	2.7	25.9
68.40	Octavian	128½	+12½	4.5	
28.70	Odell†	87½	+½	8.2	51.7
26.70	Premium Trust	135	+3	3.7	31.5
17,421.90	Prudential	898½	-9	2.2	20.5
6.24	PWS†	20	+½	4.7	4.4
11,771.50	Royal & Sun Al	757½	-16	3.1	18.8
306.60	St James Place	197½	-2½	0.9	29.5
861.00	Sedgwick†	155½	+6½	4.5	12.3
13.58	Steel Burrill	24½	-½	7.7	
4,703.60	Sun Life & P	560	+60	2.3	33.2
61.70	Syndicate Cap	114	+3	9.9	11.1
2,074.20	Utd Assurance	509	-11	4.1	21.2
137.10	Wellington	159½	+2	3.7	10.5
822.30	Willis Corroon†	147	+8½	5.6	11.9
7.83	Windsor†	15½	+1	4.8	

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
3,415.50	3i	575	+6½	2.1	33.5
62.30	Aberdeen High Inc	117½	-2½	7.1	17.5
53.10	Aberdn New Dawn	123	-2	1.7	49.9
183.60	Aberforth Smlr	222	+1	4.0	24.8
8.55	Aberforth Sm Wts	124½	+½		
31.80	Abtrust Emerg	62½	-½		
1,426.60	Alliance	2830½	+35½	2.5	47.3
784.60	Anglo & O'seas	669½	-1½	2.0	
10.40	Aust Opps	74½	+1	0.4	
20.20	Baillie Gifford SN	63½	-1½		
421.90	Bankers	272	-3	2.4	44.3
129.90	Baring Em Eu	104½	+1½		
276.30	Baring Tribnet	538½	-6½	1.9	
414.50	Br Assets†	128½	-¼	4.7	24.0
222.10	Br Empire Sec	117½	+3½	1.1	63.5
34.50	Brazilian	55½	+1½		
229.80	Brunner†	349½	-1½	2.3	54.9
56.30	B2W Conv#	118		8.9	
117.80	Camgoam Oaan	83	+1		
221.90	Candover	977½	-6½	2.0	55.3
141.70	Central Euro Grth	66½	-½		
66.80	City Merch HY	186	-2	6.3	
545.00	City Of Lon	261	-1	3.1	36.1
70.30	Cont Asset	289½	-1	0.9	
5.47	Dance Inv Inc	75	+½	13.8	9.6
83.50	Derby Cap	583½	-9		
15.30	Derby Inc	129½	+1		4.0
213.80	Dunedin Inc G	196	-1½	3.7	30.4
62.50	Dunedin Smlr	372	+4	3.4	31.6
342.10	Dunedin Wrdte	204	+½	1.3	
190.30	EMC	257½	-9	0.2	
150.70	Edin Dragon	59½	-2		
33.00	Edinburgh Incs	28	-½		
1,414.60	Edinburgh IT	481½	-½	2.8	38.3
33.20	Edin Japan	96½	+2½		
401.30	Edin US Tk	479½	-2	1.0	
1,031.70	Electra Inv	596	+2	2.0	42.0
286.50	Eng & Scott	175	+1½	2.3	
0.80	Ent Cap	27			
106.60	European Asset	427½	+1	1.1	
68.30	Fidlty Asian Val	66½	-4		
177.00	Fidlty Euro Val	310		0.2	
33.20	Fidlty Jap Val	31½	+½		
54.60	Fidlty Spec Val	148½	+½	1.1	74.0
37.70	Finsbury 'A'	235½	+½	2.1	64.2
92.90	Finsbury Gwth	202	-1½	2.2	56.6
129.00	Five Arr Cl	141	+1½	1.7	72.2
0.06	Five Arr Wts	3½	+1½		
417.30	Fleming Amert	599½	-3½	0.5	
101.10	Fleming Asian	60½	-2		
3.22	Fleming Asian Wts	10½	-1½		
36.60	Fleming Chinese	60½	-4		
2.70	Fleming Ch Wts	23½	-3½		
266.20	Fleming Claver	453½	+½	1.9	
363.40	Fleming Cont	556½	+9	0.9	
117.60	Fleming Em Mkts	121½	-1½	0.4	
122.40	Fleming Enter	306	+9	2.2	45.3
56.30	Fleming Fledg	447	+5	0.3	
66.20	Flem Gtd Gth Ord	358		1.0	
27.20	Flem Gtd Gth Pf	160		10.2	
108.50	Fleming Inc Cap	117½	+7	6.1	22.3
87.70	Fleming Ing Inc	109	-1	11.7	
124.90	Fleming Jap	310½	+½		
40.30	Fleming Indian	43½	-1		
1.76	Fleming Ja Wts	40½	-1		
311.80	Fleming Merc	159½	+½		
585.90	Fleming Merc	405½	+16	2.8	36.9
33.10	Fleming Nat Res	80½	+2½	0.3	
532.60	Fleming Overs	401	-5	1.4	
43.70	Fleming Smlr Co	163½	+1	3.4	47.5
2,015.30	Foreign & Col	191½	+3½	1.6	65.9
48.50	F&C Inc Grth†	112	+½	4.0	31.1
186.90	F&C Eng Mkts	100½	-½		
227.50	F&C Enterprise	242	-4	2.0	
288.00	F&C Eurotst	427	+5	0.4	
69.60	F&C German	177		0.4	
262.10	F&C Pacific	122½	-4	1.9	58.4
94.70	F&C PEP	167½	+2	3.5	35.0
202.60	F&C Smaller	193½	-½	1.8	56.6

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
21.20	F&C US Smlr	161½			
24.90	Family Inc	63½	+1½	10.1	12.1
31.30	Family Cap	126	-6		
7.35	Fract Dual Cp	206½	-1		
9.18	Fulcrum Cap	51			
2.11	Fulcrum Inc	21½		56.3	2.1
16.50	Fulcrum Zero	131½			
151.20	Gartmore Brit	302½	-½	3.7	
55.20	Gartmore Euro	255½	+1½	0.6	
31.60	Gartmore Shrd	140	-1	8.5	14.2
59.90	Gmore Smlr Cos	409	+4	1.8	60.4
23.20	Geared Inc Ord	63½	+3½	9.7	8.1
35.70	Geared Inc Inc	57½		10.7	7.4
35.10	Gov Asst Sm Cos	93½	-6½	0.7	
36.20	Bco Eng Mkt	83½	-1½	0.6	
43.50	Govett Am Smlr	116	-2½		
41.90	Govett High Inc†	83½	+½	7.8	15.4
36.50	Govett Oriental	102½	-4½	0.8	
410.50	Govett Strategic	418	+12½	2.3	39.5
0.34	Gresham House	22½	-3½	1.4	1.3
13.00	GT Inc Growth	125½	+1	3.0	46.6
10.20	GT Japan	167	-1	0.3	
27.60	Gart Pl Eu Inc	141	-½	7.5	
25.30	Henderson Am Cs	68	-1½		
4.73	Henderson Am Ir	117	-2	8.3	15.3
2.91	Henderson Am Wt	37½	-½		
294.70	Herd Elec Gen	326	-½	1.5	75.8
66.10	Herd Far East	117½	-9	7.2	16.8
63.60	Herd Growth	567	+26½	1.7	71.1
82.30	Herd High Inc	156½	-3	5.4	
28.60	Herd Jap Smlr	38½	-½		
43.10	Herd Smart	252	-1	2.0	80.7
59.90	Herd Strata	539½	+1	0.1	
126.70	Herd TR Pac	67½	-4½	0.5	70.6
157.10	Herd Tech	106½	-6½		
141.20	Herald	170½	+7½	0.6	
26.90	High Income T	119	-½	7.5	14.2
128.80	H Savell Smlr	150	+1	2.5	53.2
45.10	ISIS UP Smlr	158½	-2½	2.3	63.4
45.20	Inv Cap†	195	-4	3.7	29.4
47.10	Inv Biotech	74	-3		
3.99	Inv Biotec Wts	13			
11.20	Inv Bolec C	72½	+½		
82.20	INVESCO Asia	55½	-3½	1.5	67.8
11.60	INVESCO Blue	82	+1	11.4	10.8
165.40	INVESCO Eng Id	187½	-3	0.9	78.1
3.09	INVESCO Jap Dis	39	+½		
14.30	INVESCO Korea	43	-½		

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
32.50	INVESCO Tokyo	29	+½		
63.00	JF Fledg Jap	100	+2		
16.00	J Fry Euro U	150	-3	4.5	32.7
52.90	J Fry Utilt	87	-½	7.7	20.2
46.70	J Fry Utl Inc	81	-½	8.2	
49.10	Jupiter Ex Inct	132½	+1½	7.4	10.7
1.53	Jupiter Ex IncWt	25½			
13.90	Jupiter Grd Capt	88	+1	10.1	12.2
16.00	Jupiter Grd Pfd	45½	-1½		
35.80	Jupiter Intl Grn	142½	-1	3.6	
347.10	Kleinwort Chrty	428½	+4½	1.6	78.8
27.10	Kleinwort E Mk	94	-½		
49.50	Kleinwort End	165	-2		
44.10	Kleinwort Fl Inc	147	+1	10.2	14.4
305.60	Kleinwort O'seas†	381	+3	1.3	73.5
25.90	Kleinwort Smlr	196	+5	2.3	52.4
78.00	Korea—Euro	166½	+1	0.7	75.7
109.70	Latin American	121½	-1½		
276.10	Law Debenture	1190	-9½	2.9	36.1
36.58	Lib Oil Opp	114½	-3		
32.50	Lloyds Sm Cap	132½	+2		
4.97	Lloyds Sm Dw	20½	+½	30.3	
36.80	Lloyds Sm Ptg	150	+2	3.7	
65.60	Lon St Lawrence	200	-½	4.0	31.0
87.60	Lowland	371	+5½	3.9	31.8
80.00	M&G 2nd Dual Cp#	800			
5.80	M&G 2nd Dual Inc#	50			1.6
92.10	M&G Inc Geared	91½	-½	7.9	16.4
161.48	M&G Inc Inv Tst Op	65½	-½		
62.20	M&G Inc Inv Tst Inc	25½	-½	26.5	4.1
250.70	M&G Inc Package	172	+1	4.2	30.8
197.20	M&G Inc Zero Div	80			
63.80	M&G Rec Cap	46½	+2½		
95.70	M&G Rec Geared	71½	+2½	9.4	13.7
35.00	M&G Rec Inc	26	-½	26.0	5.0
202.80	M&G Rec Packge	180½	+2½	3.7	34.7
150.30	M&G Rec Zero Div	111½			
46.30	M Conte Euro	198	+4	0.5	
16.80	M Conte Japan	77	-½		
47.90	M Conte Pac	116½	-3½	1.0	79.8
174.80	Majedie	333	+2½	2.6	60.6
404.10	Merchants	385	-8½	4.4	28.9
735.20	Mercury Euro Pv	1444½	+1½	1.9	41.7
69.80	Mercury Eur Wt	80½	+½		
278.88	Mercury World†	85½	-2½	1.5	
0.23	Mercury Wld Wts	6½	-½		
591.70	Monks Inv Tst	762½	-½	1.8	61.8
73.20	Morg Gren Inc	192	-7	4.4	26.9
4.38	Morg Wts	60½	-½		
49.40	Morg Latn Amer	77	-1½	0.5	
3.86	Morg Wts	30½	-½		
29.00	Murray Ent	120	+1	3.2	41.1
0.82	Murray Ent Wts	17	+4		
35.00	Murray Emg Eco	64½	-½	1.1	79.2
1.10	Murray Em Ec Wt	8½	-½		
426.00	Murray Income	493	-5	3.7	35.3
560.10	Murray Intl	485	+5½	3.8	
13.30	Murray S/C DP	208½	+½		
18.50	Murray S/C Cap	347½	-4		
4.76	Murray S/C Inc†	59½		25.5	4.7
2.53	Murray S/C Ulst	4875	+150	3.1	
222.40	Murray Small	396½	-5	1.9	51.1
98.90	Murray Vent	400½	+½	4.7	24.2
12.30	Natwest Ent	272½	-9	2.3	41.8
0.91	Newmarket	2½			
186.50	O'seas Inv Tst	489½	+5½	1.0	
5.15	O'seas Wts	287	+2½		
68.00	Pacific Assets	50½	-2½	1.0	
36.20	Perpetual Euro	100½	+4½	0.6	
254.30	Perp Inc Gth	146½	+3	3.3	43.8
12.10	Perpetual Jap	33	-1½		
49.40	Perp UK Sm Co	352½	+7	3.4	31.5
38.20	Personal Assets	£191	+50	1.5	
71.50	Pacific Inc	136½	-5	3.8	29.3
556.30	RIT Cap Ptnr	307	+1	0.7	
6.24	Roleco	334	-1½	2.0	
34.40	Rolinco	541½	-1½	0.8	
77.70	Schrod Asia Pac	59½	-4	1.1	
65.80	Schrod Emg Cat	68	-½		
119.80	Schrod Inc Gwth	147½	-2	3.9	36.5
72.50	Schrod Jap Gwth	58	+½		
18.60	Schrod Korea	282½	+62½		
18.20	Schrod Split Cap	64½	-½		
65.10	Schrod Split Inc†	115	-1½	9.5	
59.70	Schrod Split Zero	158½	-½		
357.40	Schrod UK Gwth	158		2.7	42.7
180.90	Schrod Vent Intl	177	+3	1.3	
1,029.50	Scot	393½	+1½	2.2	57.8
478.50	Scot American†	214	+2½	3.1	37.3
35.40	Scot Asian	126	-6		
808.40	Scot Eastern	127½	+1½	2.0	
1,329.20	Scot Mtge	398½	+2	1.8	64.0
182.40	Scot Natl Tst†	181½	-½	10.3	10.7
59.70	Scot Value	126½	-½	2.0	26.5
477.60	Second Alliance†	2487½	+21½	2.7	46.6
395.60	Secs Tst of Scot	123½	-2½	3.8	34.4
32.50	Shires Smlr	165½	+4	4.7	25.9
77.00	Smaller Cos	158½	-1½	2.6	47.0
126.80	St Andrew Inv	388½	+7½	3.5	
315.40	Temple Bar	547½	-6½	4.5	27.2
270.40	Throgmorton†	89	+1½	3.3	39.3
564.80	Tphim Emg Mkt	120	-2½	1.1	70.1
292.40	TR Euro Growth	187½	+8	0.6	
222.40	TR Property	47½	+½	2.8	33.2

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
47.50	TR Tech Inv	402½	-7½	11.8	32.2
29.00	Torday Trust	293	+8	1.5	81.1
159.80	Undervalued Ast	152		1.9	67.3
70.10	Value Inc Tst	154	-1	3.6	32.0
115.00	Value Real	119½	+½	0.9	59.3
37.60	Warrants & Val	45½	+1½		
20.00	Wigmore	98½	+2	1.0	
1,349.20	Witan†	359½	-2	2.4	44.4
16.60	Yeoman Inc†	67½	-1	4.1	

LEISURE & HOTELS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4.96	ABI Leis	15	+½	13.6	
2,055.80	Airtours	480	+27½	1.7	24.1
32.10	Ald Leis	27	-1	4.8	8.4
89.20	Arcadian	60½		2.5	25.2
35.20	Arena Leis	18½	+1		
8.74	BS Group	132½		6.1	
22.90	Baloain	120		4.2	16.8
45.30	Bluebird Toys	108	+1	11.0	
132.30	Botsey Hotels	675		1.8	25.3
31.50	Bonscene	31½	-½	8.1	8.1
140.90	Capital Corpn	138½	+½	7.3	15.7
46.50	Character Grp	224½	+5	2.5	14.9
29.50	Chrysalis	65½	+4	3.9	14.8
72.90	Clubhaus	84	+8½		22.9
93.70	Eurocamp†	278½	+½	5.6	11.7
688.50	Euro Disney	90			
44.20	Euro Leisure	124½		4.3	7.8
342.00	First Choice†	143½	+7	2.4	49.9
543.30	First Leisure	330½	+14½	3.5	18.5
27.20	Friendly Hotels	324	+11½	6.7	18.4
8,545.40	Granada†	958	+3	1.9	19.7
19.20	Hi-Tec Sports†	38	-½	6.6	7.3
179.50	Holmes Place	265½	+5	1.4	33.6
15.90	Hornby	187½	-7	4.3	9.1
86.40	Hotelact	390	-5	7.9	19.1
259.20	Jarvis Hotels	170	+7	3.3	10.9
225.20	Jurys Hotel	509	+12½	1.6	24.4
64.90	Kunick	30½	+½	3.1	15.6
3,687.80	Ladbroke	312	+8	2.9	22.4
423.80	London Clubs	288½	-6	3.6	20.8

MEDIA

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
126.90	Macdonald Hte	216½	+38	2.7	16.2
392.20	Man Utd	151	+8½	1.3	20.2
343.90	Mandarin Oriel	49½	+½	7.9	8.1
745.50	Millennium & Cop	514½	+25	2.1	19.6
10.30	Millwall Hldgs	1			
13.90	Newcastle Utd	88½	-6	2.3	12.6
290.90	Northern	477	-15½	2.0	37.2
6.13	Pelota Leisure†	70½		12.1	4.8
25.30	Queensborough	23		2.2	9.9
76.40	Queens Moat	19½	+1½		5.5
2,805.00	Rank Grp†	331	+10½	6.8	12.5
127.60	Regal Hotel	44	-1	3.1	11.7
46.40	Ryan Hotels E	84½	-6½	3.4	13.5
407.50	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1425		1.5	
17.70	Sheffield United	39½	-2½		
54.80	Sinclair (Wm)†	242½	-3½	4.7	11.7
18.90	Southampton	68½		1.8	
893.30	Stakis	112	+8	2.8	16.8
279.60	Stanley Leisure	253	-2	2.1	17.9
4.84	Tandem	5¼			63.3
1,300.10	Tanjong#	348		0.9	36.0
1,176.00	Thistle Hotels	190½	+4½	2.8	15.4
67.50	Tottenham Hot	67	-½	1.9	9.1
220.90	Vardon	187	+2½	1.8	20.0
194.20	Wembley	350½	+8	1.1	
8.56	Zetters Gp	120½	-4½	10.8	7.0

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
253.90	Abbott Mead	338½	+11	2.2	26.3
33.90	Adscene	152½	-7½	7.7	15.6
611.40	Anglia Grp	734	+6½	0.9	20.6
11.90	Aston Grp	76½	+1½	10.2	
84.80	Atlantic Telecom	167½	+2½		
4.86	BBB Design	58½	-1½		
36.30	Barbour Index	221½	-1½	6.8	25.0
2.09	Birkdale	1½			
6.72	Black (A&C)	382½		4.6	18.3
33.30	Border TV	326½	-12	2.7	25.1
72.90	Bristol	447½	+22½	4.5	15.3
44.80	Bdt Alcroft	187½	+21	1.3	26.9
7,344.30	BSkyB†	426½	+33½	1.3	25.8
115.90	CIA Gp	184½	+3	1.6	35.4
466.50	Capital Radio	633	-12	2.7	19.8
2,604.40	Carlton Comm	437½	+10½	3.6	12.4
227.00	Chrysalis†	730	+7½	0.5	
6.40	City of Lon	80	+½	9.8	10.4
229.70	Cordiant Comms	103½	-½	1.4	12.3
128.70	Creative Pub	159½		5.5	56.5
123.60	Daily Mail	2471½	+67½	1.2	28.9
2,447.60	Daily Mail 'A'	2450	+93½	1.2	28.6
270.40	Dialog	180	+8½		
163.40	Dorling Kind	228½	+17	2.5	37.8
2,212.30	EMAP	1056½	-46½	1.6	24.8
4,308.20	EMI†	548½	+30½	3.0	75.9
6,863.80	Elsevier	1044½	-18½	2.4	24.4
381.90	Euromoney Pb	1750	+10	3.5	19.3
24.10	Filch	83½	+½	1.4	
864.00	Flextech	550	+24½		
141.10	GGT Group	302½		4.0	30.7
203.30	GWR Gp	186½	+1½	1.9	35.3
67.30	Gradcorse Group	370	+30	2.4	14.1
16.00	Goodhead	38½	-½	1.6	13.0
58.70	HIT Enter	405	+13½	0.2	74.5
18.10	Haynes Pub	270	+5	5.3	11.3
11.00	Highbury Hse	12½			
79.40	Hodder H'line	225	+5	3.7	15.4
44.90	Home Counts	445	+10	1.6	43.2
157.00	IBC	397½	+2	3.1	13.9
37.50	Incepta	21½	+½		12.9
934.30	Independent	377½	-7½	2.2	25.9
7.18	Inveresk	158	+1	3.8	11.5
415.80	Johnston Press	307½	+½	1.6	19.1
19.50	Liquor	37	+2	2.8	9.9
146.80	Maiden	373½	+51½	1.9	22.8
22.80	MediaKey	32	+1½	5.5	
103.50	Metal Bulletin	1035	+27½	2.8	
230.30	Midland Ind	210½		2.7	21.9
814.50	Mirror Gp	179	+9	3.2	12.1
426.00	More Grp	1034	+248	2.8	
7,610.60	News Corp	390½	+3½	0.3	16.3
5,143.80	News Corp Prf	335½	+2½	0.9	
529.00	Newsquest	264½	+3½	2.6	16.3
3.59	On Demand Inf#	6½			
3.76	Osprey Comms	12½	+½		
5,441.10	Pearson	943	+38	2.5	65.5
20.50	Photobit	42½	-6		
106.50	Portenta Sand	887½	+2½	2.1	18.2
12.60	Quadro	88½		8.5	
7,724.60	Reed Intl	677	-37½	2.6	24.0
9,111.30	Reuters	643	+31½	2.8	23.6
275.90	Saatchi	130½	+4	1.2	32.8
426.40	Scot Med	659	-5	3.8	16.6
120.60	Scott Radio	448½	+4½	2.6	19.8
72.00	Sharpshields†	514½	+1	4.0	
2.70	Sleepy Kids	9	+½	1.2	
85.60	Southnews	535	+67	2.0	18.4
17.30	Sterling Pub	21			4.7
371.00	Taylor Nelson	100½	+½	1.1	37.8
55.20	Television Cp	212½	+2½	1.9	15.9
11,082.20	Thomson Corp	1625½	+18	2.5	38.6
713.30	Trinity Intl	513½	+10	3.0	17.8
124.90	Ulster TV	250		2.9	22.8
3,590.60	United News	721	+3	4.2	
33.70	VCI	86½	+1½	11.4	4.5
8.86	VTR	80½	-5	8.6	9.6
2,180.50	WPP	287½	-24½	0.7	18.9
101.60	Wilmington	142½	+1	1.1	31.5

MINING

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
716.00	Ang Am Coal	2825	-43½	6.5	5.8
5,601.20	Ang Am	2398½	-162½	3.8	
568.50	Ang Am Gold	2353½	-78½	6.8	
1,081.80	Anglo Am Platt	848½	-18½	3.2	22.4
15.20	Anglo Pac Grp	17½			
77.50	Arcon Intl	27			
610.30	Ashanti†	565	-1½	2.2	
167.20	Ashton	59½	-4½	9.5	
23.20	Avocet	65	-22½		
3,549.10	Billiton	168	+17	3.7	18.8
3.31	Bisichi	31½		3.2	35.4
75.40	Bougainville	18½	-1		
276.80	Central Pacific	276	-5½		
2.02	Cons Murchison	30½	+3½		8.9
4,592.50	De Beers	1209½	+6½	4.9	12.1
775.00	Driefontein	380	-8½	3.4	11.8
12.60	Durban	137½	+4½		
33.60	E Rand Gold	65	+½	28.5	2.7
17.60	E Rand Prop	11½			
178.40	Elandsrand	152½	+½	11.6	
809.80	Eng China Cl	252½	+17	6.0	20.1
38.00	Gaonar	99½	-3½	16.1	
316.10	FS Cons	285½	-13½	14.5	8.9
4.17	FS Dev	18½	-1½		
777.30	GFSA†	800	-3½	3.5	15.8
354.90	Gencor	103½	+2½	3.5	6.4
13.80	Gold Fields Prop	135	+24½	5.9	11.3
23.60	Greenwich R 'A'	20½	-½		
42.80	Geella Cons	54½	-½	1.5	8.5
55.60	Harmony	192½	+4		5.8
371.80	Impala Plat	587½	+3½	1.7	20.0
9.39	Kenmare Res	12½	-½		
20.70	Kiddon	16½	-2½		
8.60	Marofinsa	10½	+2½		
622.50	MIM	32	-2	3.2	
2,296.80	Minorco	1018½	-46½	3.8	9.3
6.41	Monkagle	98		5.2	
935.40	Normandy	58	-2½	4.2	11.8
1,150.40	North	180½	-4½	3.3	21.5
8.97	Petaling Tin	44½	-10½	1.0	
137.20	RGC	65½	-17½	8.2	3.3
150.90	RJB	103½		26.6	1.3
11.40	Rachmod	27	+½	15.3	6.3
68.60	Randfontein	110½	+4½	5.5	25.8
40.00	Reunion Mng	102½	+8		
8,903.00	Rio Tinto	830½	+10½	3.9	15.2
5,096.80	Rio Tinto Ltd	793½	-4½	3.6	18.5
10.30	St Barbara	5	+½		
14.20	St Helena†	147½	-4	22.4	2.0
187.30	Sons Gwalia	182½	-3½	5.6	12.8
317.30	Sthern Pacific	114	-8		
249.20	Southvaal	925	+8½	11.2	9.0
447.70	Vaal Reefs	2343½	-8½	9.3	
2,324.00	WMC	204½	-1½	2.4	24.5
27.20	Wankie Col Z	18		6.3	6.1
4.18	Waler Hall	56½	-2		
80.70	Wallis Stoke	432½	-5	4.8	14.9
304.70	Western Deep	1100	-80½	7.3	7.2
172.80	Zambia Copper	141	-¼		

OIL & GAS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
253.80	Abbot Group	179	-1½	1.5	28.7
7.17	Alliance Res	25	-4		
37.20	Aminex	61	+3		
34.60	Ass Oil & Gas	77	+2½		
8.78	Aviva Pet	21½	+1½		
839.60	Br Borneo	355	+7	1.0	45.9
12,103.80	BG	307½	+3	3.3	26.2
46,533.40	Br Petroleum†	855½	+17½	3.2	19.0
20.28	Bula Resources	1½			
2,365.60	Burmah Castrl	1085	+38	5.3	15.2
687.60	Cairn Energy	404½	-10½		
4,924.00	Canadian	111	+3		
24.70	Coplex Res	12½	-2		
189.10	Dana Pet	20½			
228.40	Dragon Oil	66½	+3		
8.20	Edn Oil & Gs	23½		1.5	15.2
63.50	Emerald Energy	7½	-½		
2,938.60	Enterprise	670	+8½	3.9	20.2
193.10	Fortum	12½	+½		46.1
353.30	Hardy Oil	284	+3½	0.6	61.5
47.20	JKX Oil & Gas	40½	+1		
103.00	KBC Adv Tech	390		1.2	
2,820.70	LASMO	292	+15½	0.6	77.7

OTHER FINANCIAL

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
2.93	Lasmo Units	40	+2	22.7	
494.70	Monument	69½	-3		36.1
6,274.40	Norsk Hydro	3737½	+68½	2.0	8.9
330.40	Oil Search	108	-10		
94.20	Perez	47½	-3		
47.20	Premier	45½	+½	1.5	8.6
28.30	Pittencrieff Rs	43½	-4		27.8
393.70	Ranger	400	+7½	4.9	7.1
66,448.30	Royal Dtch Pt	3180	-9½	3.0	
22,672.20	Schlumberger	4688½	+34½	1.0	
43,256.40	Shell	435	+½	3.4	34.2
178.40	SOCO Intl	348½	-2		
15,811.90	Total	6475	-18½	2.4	23.0
67.00	XCL	332½			

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
146.80	Aberdeen Asset	107½	+8	4.7	30.3
3,565.40	AMVESCAP	615	+20	1.3	28.9
28.20	BWD	151½	-½	8.4	13.2
3.54	Beay Bck Nbl	54½		6.9	13.5
157.70	Bettes Inv	265½	-8½		
81.40	Brewin Dolphin	352½	+20	3.4	
665.10	Caledonia	787½	-3½	3.0	21.2
62.80	Camellia	3300	-250	1.3	14.0
688.50	Cattles	497½	-4½	2.2	27.3
10.20	Christie	43	-½	2.9	14.1
832.10	Close Bros	681½	+79	2.2	22.9
130.00	EFM	471	+8½	6.6	16.7
25.30	Exco	20½	-2½	22.0	8.0
32.60	Fishers Intl	38½		2.5	16.8
224.80	Friends Ivory Sime	215½	-2½	4.3	
248.20	Gerrard	340	-½	3.9	15.3
487.40	Hambros	262	-½	3.8	25.1
358.60	Henderson	1830	+15	3.5	22.5
74.30	Hitachi Cred	174½	+2	3.1	18.1
4.90	Investment Co.	175		2.5	
1,256.30	Jardine Strat	169	-5	5.2	8.3
21.20	Johnson Fry	139½	-½	3.6	14.9
32.60	Leopold J	615		4.1	22.0
1,703.20	Liberty Intl	592	+3½	3.8	25.5
437.10	Lon Forfaitngt	417½	+2½	3.7	13.8
127.90	London Pacific	182		8.7	5.4
165.00	Lon Scot Bkt	132	+7	3.2	23.7
683.20	Man ED & F	258½	+12	5.3	10.4
1,172.20	M & G	1565	+12½	3.2	25.3
3,094.30	MAM	1691		3.5	26.8
153.40	Paragon	220	-1½	1.6	8.9
937.50	Perpetual	3325	+40	2.3	22.4
2,807.00	Provident	958½	-27	2.6	27.3
150.40	Rathbone Bs	535	+7½	2.9	18.8
27.30	Rea Brothers	55		2.2	19.3
163.00	Rutland Tst	58	+½	3.2	13.0
15.00	SEC Group	88½	-2	7.2	6.9
45.50	S & U	386	+15	6.0	10.2
3,578.70	Schroders	2370	+75	1.1	24.5
895.50	Schroders NV	1690	+65	1.3	20.5
106.50	Secure Tst	710		3.7	15.5
342.10	Singer & Fried	169	+5	3.6	13.3
7.78	Towry Law	80½	+1		
2.92	Tris Hldgs	3½			
16.60	Ufoilet	70	+1		
123.70	Versailles Grp	48	+½	1.1	39.5
38.10	Walrsit†	423½	+4	4.2	17.2

PHARMACEUTICALS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
580.70	Brit Biotech	88	-7½		
118.00	Cantab Pharm	715	-17½		
239.70	Celltech	312½	+12½		
377.10	Chiroscience	257½	-5		
265.60	Cortecs	188½	-8		
59,288.30	Glaxo Wellt	1656	-24	2.1	31.9
167.50	ML Laboratories	115½	+3		
557.50	Medeva†	156½	-½	3.5	7.3
105.50	Peptide Thera	294	-5½		
244.70	Powderject	414	+98		
48.30	Proteus Intl	83½			
9.81	Ransom (Wm)†	62½	-1½	5.1	12.6
347.70	Scotia	316	-2½		
430.70	Shire Pharms	330½	-28		
265.70	SkyePharma	73	+9		
44,900.60	SmithKline†	808	+48	1.4	41.0
44.70	Theap Ash Inc	209	+4		
169.30	Vanguard	537½	-2½		
	Vanguard Wts	108½	-6		
48.70	Xenova	215	-5		
25,129.50	Zeneca	2048	+8	1.8	34.1

PRINTING & PAPER

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
18.28	AG Holdings	86½	-½	9.0	11.2
171.30	API	607½	+7½	2.5	16.8
25.10	App Holo	98½	-9½		
1,638.00	Arjo Wiggins	198½	+33	4.1	10.7
44.00	Bath Press	20½		3.3	8.6
191.90	Bemrose	449½		4.3	13.0
109.80	Bimpiel	151	-2½	2.2	9.8
1,257.90	Bowater Inc	3103½	+112½		
220.10	Bowater Intl	306½	+24	1.3	21.2
194.30	Br Polythene	474	-2½	5.6	
5.05	Br Thornton#	25½			
192.50	Bunzl Gp	238½		3.1	15.8
1,188.80	Bunzl	283	+18½	2.8	18.2
42.80	Capital Inds	129	+5½	5.9	10.3
21.09	Cropper (James)	249½		2.4	8.9
641.30	De La Rue	285	-5½	10.5	7.4
59.60	Dolphin Pack	254½		3.7	14.7
27.60	Fairlay Group	88½		7.3	21.1
31.20	Ferguson Intl	77	-1½	21.5	5.8
46.40	Fixitst	165	-7½	2.9	11.5
36.30	Inveresk	71½	-2	10.7	
87.00	Jarvis Porter	185½	-4	5.1	10.9
333.60	Low & Bonar	336	-13	5.1	10.9
103.60	MY Holdings	78½		4.4	10.4
180.70	Macfarlane	142½	-1	3.7	12.8
228.00	Porrtshire	393½	-24	0.6	48.6
77.70	Plysu	161½	-11	6.2	12.3
36.30	Porter Chadburn	38	+2	3.3	9.8
1,337.20	REXAM	265	-16½	7.2	17.8
521.70	St Ives Gp	513	+9	2.8	15.8
432.70	Sappi	271½	-1½	3.2	
2.48	Security & General	33½	-2		
72.19	Shiller	105	+9	2.7	28.9
707.00	Smith David	221½	+18½	4.8	13.8
1,802.10	Smurfit (Jeff)	183½	+7½	2.8	14.2
2.16	Sortac	108	-1	3.6	11.8
51.10	Tinsley Robor	137		2.7	15.2
19.40	Wace	24½	+2	5.9	
263.70	Waddington	249½		5.4	11.9
394.80	Watmough	335½		3.9	17.2
102.90	Wyndeham	258½	+4	2.5	15.6

PROPERTY

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
75.70	Allied Lon	107½	-1½	4.7	13.0
127.70	Asda	162	+3½	2.2	25.6
10.00	Ashquay Grp	28½	-1		
102.60	Ashfield Hldgs	148½		4.2	18.0
297.30	Benchmark	246½		1.5	38.4
246.80	Bilton	288½	+8½	4.6	21.8
78.70	Bildoyt	160	-6½	6.8	10.7
2.37	Bolton Gp	4			
45.20	Bourne End	59½	-1	2.5	72.8
461.70	Bradford	316	+½	3.3	22.7
3,818.40	Br Land	749	+5	1.5	42.3
568.80	Brixton	249	-4½	4.8	21.5
494.30	Burford	117	-½	2.4	30.5
155.90	CLS Hldgs	138	-½	5.1	15.6
233.40	Cap & Regnl	305½	+16½	1.2	25.9
1,854.30	Cap Shop Ctrs	454½	+9	2.6	29.3
9.75	Cardiff Propt	278½	-1½	1.4	25.6
31.30	Carlisle	11	+1½		48.3
25.30	Calhay Intl	8			41.4
983.40	Chelsfield	414½	+5½	0.9	62.2
143.30	Chesterfield	802	+1	2.8	
20.50	Chesterton Intl	36		3.5	
6.20	City Site Ests	37½	-1		30.8
29.30	Cleveland Tst	98	+6	7.8	12.2
35.40	CNC Props	84½		4.6	8.4
83.90	Conegrn	220½	+6½	2.4	18.4
267.70	Daejan	1642½		3.1	15.7
8.53	Davis Estates	47	-2		10.5
48.10	Debenham Tewn	110	+3½	3.2	12.9
18.00	Delancey Ests	79½	-5	2.4	16.2
37.80	Deacon	202½	+2	2.6	11.7
283.60	Derwent Hldgs	565	+2½	1.4	35.4
87.70	Development Sec	302½	-2½	1.2	18.7
104.30	Edge Properties	195	-2		21.0
25.20	Estates Agency	420		4.9	29.1
23.60	Estates Gen	83½	-1½	1.2	
192.90	Evans Of Leeds	144½	+2	3.0	16.8
41.40	Five Oaks	40½		2.8	13.9
3.48	Fletcher King	40		8.2	13.2
7.16	Foltes Group	63½	+1½	3.9	4.6
13.00	Foltes Group nv	59	+1	4.2	4.3
294.20	Frogmore	523½	+15	4.8	15.9
11.00	Golden Land Inv	15½	-½		
82.20	Grainger	326	-1	2.9	
1,079.40	Gr Portland	288	-8½	3.9	31.4
212.40	Grantchester	178½	+3	0.7	53.7
252.20	Greycoat	225		0.8	29.4
452.10	Hamilton Calyn	128	-½	2.4	8.4
1,409.90	Hammerson	493½	-8	2.9	31.8
33.80	Hampton Trust	28½	-1		
103.40	Helical Bar	587½	-2½	2.2	16.1
78.40	Hemingway	47		1.5	15.6
12.20	High-Point	52½			
2,738.30	HK Land	102½	-5½	7.2	10.7
42.60	Jermyn	275	+23	2.8	
19.60	LSH	105½	+10½	1.9	7.7
23.30	Lands Imp	89½	+2½	6.6	20.2
5,923.60	Land Sec	1032	-48½	3.1	37.4
38.40	Lon & Assoc	35	+4½	3.0	14.2
4.65	Lon & Metro	9½	-½		
283.80	Lon Merch Sec	127	-1	4.8	11.7
2,361.20	MEPC	583	-37	3.8	25.6
55.70	MWB Group	105		3.1	
57.40	McKay Secs†	149½	-1	3.8	20.5
10.50	Macdalla Mrs	65½		4.3	31.7
98.70	Miller Estd	328	-1½	2.7	15.7
282.90	Minerva▼	221½	+13½	0.9	
26.80	Moorfield Est	27		2.3	
63.70	Mountview†	1825	-75	2.9	12.8
162.50	Muckler (A&J)	166½	+½	5.5	18.2
1.92	OEM	21½	-2		1.7
3.73	Olds	55½			
21.90	Olives Prop	34½	-2	2.2	
523.50	Peel	679	-3½	1.5	
508.30	Pillar Prop	307½	+½	2.1	44.7
13.50	Prestor Land	10½			
169.60	Quintain	192	+1½	2.3	32.2
44.00	Raglan	25½		5.9	10.1
55.50	Regalian	31½	+½	4.3	19.5
31.00	Rugby Est	171	+1	1.8	22.8
83.00	St Modwen Prop	77½		4.8	
129.20	Saville Grds (UI)	88	+½	5.5	25.8
76.20	Savills	142½	+9	3.3	10.0
124.80	Scot Met	95½		3.9	17.2
236.50	Shaftesbury	220	+1	1.3	51.8
1,547.60	Slough Estates	384	-8½	2.9	27.3
25.50	Smart (J)	252½	-2½	4.9	9.4
426.50	TBI	98½	+½	2.6	31.7
68.30	Tops Estat	182½		1.7	41.7
138.10	Town Centre	104½		4.6	13.7
106.60	Trafford Park	195		3.1	17.4
8.22	UK Land	87½	-1	4.3	11.9
138.00	Warner†	269½	+½	6.0	18.9
97.90	Warnford	295	-½	3.6	16.1
264.70	Wates	100	-1½		
1.95	Wilkinsay Mdaf	28½			
70.90	Workspace Grp	448½	+2	4.3	18.5

RETAILERS, FOOD

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5,684.60	ASDA Group†	188½	-12½	2.1	17.7
115.60	Budgens	68½	+½	2.2	13.9
1,143.10	Dairy Farm Intl	65½	-7	3.8	
84.30	Fanpak	181½	-2½	3.5	13.0
34.70	Flexthor	27½	-2	7.6	10.3
398.70	Fyffes†	135	+8½	1.5	15.8
252.00	Greggs	2100	+100	2.2	
256.20	Iceland Group	149½	-4½	4.5	12.1
539.20	Kwik Save	340½	+½	7.2	22.5
1,837.10	Morrison (W)	244	+5	0.9	21.4
64.60	Park Foods†	40	-2½	9.3	11.6
2.04	Regina Hlth	7	+½		
4,112.00	Safeway	374½	+16½	4.7	13.4
4,926.60	Sainsbury J	470	-1	3.3	19.1
905.10	Somerfield	289½	-2	4.4	10.3
171.70	T & S Stores	296½	+4	4.2	13.2
11,886.30	Tesco	525½	+8	2.3	21.0
160.30	Thorntons	237½		2.5	23.1
253.40	Watson Philipt	582½		4.0	16.3

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
154.10	Alexon	262½	-6		14.7
188.30	Alders	273½	-19	4.6	18.7
142.40	Allied Carpets	157½	-2	6.3	12.0
921.80	Argos	428	-6½	0.3	19.7
1,740.40	Argos	606	-4	3.9	19.2
81.20	Ashley (Laura)	34	+2	2.2	68.9
57.50	Austin Reed	183½	+1	4.6	12.3
33.60	Beales†	331½	+1½	3.6	11.4
67.10	Beattie (J)	162½	-1	6.5	12.2
58.70	Bentalls	141	+6	2.6	5.1
150.70	Blacks Leis	479½	-13	1.2	18.6
216.30	Body Shop	111½	-9	5.6	11.2
8,217.10	Boots†	901	-11½	2.9	20.5
75.50	Brown & Jackson	46	-3½		12.4
648.20	Brown (N)	444		2.8	24.5
339.50	Carpetright	426	-52½	6.2	14.1
435.00	Christies Intl	257½	-1½	2.1	19.6
44.70	Church	402½	-5	5.0	12.3
56.10	Clinton Cards	99½		2.7	14.3
25.30	C'try Casuals	132½			
61.40	Country Gdns	230	+5½	1.0	
229.90	Courts Furnish	375	+40	1.3	16.1
465.80	DFS Furniture	445	-125	3.6	17.3
1,515.00	Debenhams	401	-18	0.7	18.9
2,204.60	Dixons Grp	511½	-33	2.7	15.4
137.80	Etec Boutique	52	+1½		27.0
5.98	ERA Gp	4½			
6.68	Essex Furl	56	+8½	8.4	11.3
87.80	Etam	133½		1.2	
9.70	Falkland Isls	158			17.3
154.50	Fine Art Dev	191½	+2	6.3	14.8
15.70	Fired Earth	271½	+16½	1.1	22.4
122.20	Flying Flw Uts	515½	+6	1.8	
23.90	Formnster	96½		3.3	41.1
73.70	French Conn	402½		0.9	76.7
72.80	Glenes	40½		3.5	
58.00	Goldsmiths Gp	242½	-13½	3.6	13.9
144.70	Grampian Hldg	136		6.2	11.1
8,017.80	GUS†	797	+22	2.9	20.9
226.00	H&C Furnishing	313½	-25	2.8	32.5
67.10	Hamleys	245	+25	4.7	13.6
14.30	Hampden Grp	93½	+8½	4.0	8.8
385.60	Hse of Fraser	165½	-9½	4.1	
26.70	Hughes (TJ)	129½	+½	5.4	
707.40	JJB Sports	786	+1	0.6	38.0
6,817.40	Kingfisher	1087	-40½	2.5	22.0
65.30	Liberty	287½		1.2	
98.50	Lionlight	98½	-2		28.1
368.00	MFI	95½	-34½	6.4	10.3
16,307.70	Marks Spencer	570	-10½	2.9	20.8
42.00	Merchant Retail	41½	-3	1.1	29.6
193.80	Moss Bros	217½	-5	3.2	14.6
2,876.20	Next	753	-79½	2.7	23.0
7.97	Oliver (G)	31½	+5		
404.80	Owtlane Intl	402	+17	3.9	
10.00	Partners	53½	-4	1.2	9.9
18.50	Partridge Fine	83½		7.8	7.0
10.90	QS Hldgs	27½	+1		
111.90	Rosebys	302½	-10	3.6	16.0
89.20	Sane Group	35	+6	9.1	7.1
790.40	Sears	51½		9.0	39.3
632.20	Signet Group	31½			0.7
1,359.60	Smith WH†	483	+½	4.0	
834.50	Sotheby's	1137½	+6	2.1	
1,096.60	Storehouse	259½	-1	4.0	13.1
44.80	Stylo	75	-1	7.8	
564.40	Thorn	152	+½	10.9	8.4
45.90	Tie Rack	88½	-4½	4.7	6.9
44.80	UNO	241	-20	2.5	19.6
4.96	Upton & South	2½			13.8
3,418.60	Vendome	498	+5	2.7	18.3
218.40	Wickes	287	-8	0.9	
136.90	Wyevale	349½	+5	2.4	23.1

SUPPORT SERVICES

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
583.50	AEA Tech	617½		1.8	29.4
477.40	Aggreko	198	+5	2.4	25.2
131.30	Alpha Argts	78	+3½	8.6	7.4
15.70	Alphameric	36	-1½		17.5
166.90	Aste Grp	70	+2½		
403.40	Atkins WS	438½		2.1	25.8
42.70	BNB Res	195	-2½	4.9	10.2
186.30	BPP	685	+10	2.6	27.0
846.00	BTG	703	-17	0.2	
12.80	Brooks Service	98½	+3	4.6	14.5
399.10	Business Post	767½	+2½	1.8	33.0
1,458.70	CMG	2272½	+95	0.4	73.7
582.20	CRT Grpt	412½	+8½	1.3	57.4
36.50	Caird Gp	880		1.4	8.7
840.70	Capita Group	436½	+11	0.6	
2.99	Chemex	7½		3.4	9.2
359.50	Corp Services	219	-21	3.4	15.9
15.10	Coudle Castig	30½		6.4	
168.00	DCS Gp	481	-6	0.4	38.7
661.90	Danka Bs Sys	247	-24	1.4	10.6
488.90	Davis Service	353½	+15	3.8	20.3
203.00	Delphi	700	-105	7.3	
191.50	Disposil	952½	+30	0.3	
49.90	Dudley Jenkins†	376	-½	1.6	26.8
18.50	EW Fact	58½		4.4	9.8
15.30	Ell Data Prot	57½	+4	4.8	12.8
460.50	FI Group▼	1430	+87½	0.5	79.4
108.80	Harvey Nash	388	+2	1.3	
3,955.10	Hays	935	-5	1.3	32.4
243.40	Hogg Robnsn	288	+12½	4.4	13.4
241.60	JBA Hldgs	600	-30	1.0	32.7
132.00	Johnson Clean	263½	+1	5.6	10.4
21.20	Kalamazoo	48½	-1	10.7	
88.70	Kewill Sys	685	-1½	1.8	16.7
5.31	Lavis-Scan	16½	-1		
91.60	Lavendon	358½	+18½	1.4	28.0
1,088.80	Logica	1472½	-25	0.9	42.2
133.20	Lofrest	690	+5	1.4	
191.40	Lynx Group	185½	+13	1.3	27.2
180.70	MDIS	48			
187.10	MMT Comp	808	-2½	1.5	30.3
78.30	MR Group	128	-15½	4.0	16.5
73.90	Macro 4†	375	-5	8.6	10.8
33.00	Mentmore Abbey†	62	+½	1.3	18.6
588.10	Micro Focus	3532½	+515		52.1
22.40	Microgent	56½	-12½	11.1	7.5
2,586.10	Misys†	2977½	+2½	0.6	44.8
156.30	MITIE Gp	238½	+3	1.2	25.8
29.10	Nord Group	57½		3.7	12.1
41.40	Oble	49	-2	3.4	13.1
145.80	PSD	602½	+15	1.1	27.7
400.60	Parity	812½		0.8	
19.10	Pegasus	273½	-10	3.4	11.5
22.70	Penna	206½	+11½	1.3	10.6
146.30	Photo-Me	204	-5	3.4	19.5
20.30	Proudfoot	37			
22.50	RCO	220	+3½	8.6	27.0
53.00	RPS Group	256	-8	2.4	
10.90	Radius†	39	+6½	3.5	
29.90	Real Time	427½	-7½	1.8	14.7
109.80	Rebus	109	-2	2.2	23.9
78.20	Reed Executive	182	+16½	2.2	9.3
98.50	Reliance Sec	165	-1	5.2	14.6
8,820.00	Rentokil Itl	308½	+8½	1.1	33.8
88.80	Ricardo Group	192	+13	4.3	24.0
129.60	Robert Walters	527½	-6	0.8	
63.80	Rolfe & Nolan	480	+2½		
83.90	Royalblue	385	-12½	0.9	
1,378.30	Sage Gp	1275	-85	0.3	54.3
47.90	Sanderson	203½	+14	5.9	9.7
695.30	Select App	663½	+18½	0.7	28.3
2,375.50	Serco Gp	2066	+106	0.4	52.7
735.10	Serco Gp	1145	-6½	0.7	47.7
354.80	Shanks & McEwan	178	+½	2.8	22.5
63.80	Shared Intl	740	+132½	0.9	
87.40	Simon Grp	55½	+6		
46.80	Slaskley	49½	-3		
213.00	Skillsgroup	262	-18	2.0	
21.60	Slot-Plus	115	-3	13.0	
16.70	Sopacape VR	182	+26		
30.80	Totex	97½	+4	2.7	15.9
7,459.00	Tyco Intl	3050	+350	0.2	
29.50	WSP Group	96	+8½	3.3	15.3
50.80	Wamer Howard	210		6.5	9.5
708.90	Waste Mgt Intl	189	+5½		33.3
181.00	Waste Recyg	345½	-1	0.8	38.3
36.80	Whitehead Mann	287½	+8½	2.4	19.6
12.40	Wills Young Gm	64½		6.8	10.0
2,877.80	Williams	388	+16	4.8	16.3

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
37,754.90	BT	589	-24½	4.8	17.8
1,488.50	COLT Telecom	1335	+10		
14,907.80	Cable Wireless	655	-9	2.0	27.5
5,190.00	Cable&Wire Coms	348½	-6		
809.10	Energis	470	-24½		
88.30	Euro Telecom	283		1.2	23.8
483.60	General Cable	132½	+9½		
3,977.40	Orange	322	-12½		
2,076.70	Securicor†	348	-18½	0.6	44.9
785.20	Telewest	82½	+5		
18,632.80	Vodafone	539½	-½	1.2	44.4

TRANSPORT

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
21.00	Air London	233	-4½	3.5	14.3
4,621.70	All Nippon Air	334½	-18	0.4	
354.70	Aviva	426	-3½	4.1	11.9
1,355.20	Assoc Br Ports	352	+44	3.2	17.8
88.20	Autologic	326	+9½	2.9	22.3
1,214.10	Avis Europe	208½		2.8	21.5
5,911.50	BAA	583	-5	2.8	17.2
5,995.00	Br Airways	627	+7	3.4	28.9
20.30	Clarkson (H)	100	+5	5.0	9.3
57.80	Clydeport Ops	140	-1½	4.5	8.2
53.80	Dart	335		2.5	16.4
250.60	Eurotunnel Uts	54½	-3		
973.00	FirstGroup	388	+21½	2.4	21.9
61.20	Fisher (James)	127	-3	2.9	9.1
280.20	Forth Ports	822½	+11½	2.7	15.8
274.40	Go-Ahead	580	-24	2.0	13.3
349.70	Goode Durrant	588	-2	2.3	17.1
66.80	Hepfton Gp	410	-5	0.2	50.4
284.80	Irish Cont†	1030		0.8	22.0
83.80	Jacobs	81½	-1	3.1	38.3
49.40	Lon O'Seas Fts	67½	-8½		
404.00	Mersey Docks	549½	+2½	3.4	20.2
1,215.00	NFC	174	+7½	4.1	18.2
886.20	Natl Express	778	+19	1.9	17.3
1,131.10	Ocean Group	720	+32½	2.5	21.8
37.80	Ocean Wilson	28½	+7½	5.0	17.1
5,093.80	P & O Dfd	815	+32½	4.7	22.1
74.30	P & O 5.5%	111½	-2	6.2	
4,646.00	Railtrack	920	-5	3.1	17.5
349.70	Salvesen (C)	129½	+2	5.6	18.5
12.70	Seacon	45½	-½	3.5	34.4
15.50	Seacourse Ship	246½		6.3	8.3
87.30	Servisair	230	-2½	2.7	21.8
1,993.50	Stagecoach	926½	+16	1.3	18.8
270.70	Tibbet & Britn	592½	+19	3.6	15.8
316.70	TDG	291½	-5½	5.3	14.7
123.50	Ugland	94½	+½	2.9	12.7
19.60	Utd Carriers	57½		7.6	8.9

WATER

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
2,236.00	Anglian	826	-14	5.4	11.3
158.70	East Surrey	320	-1½	4.4	13.0
1,357.60	Hyder†	842½	+6	8.9	8.0
247.40	Hyder Cm Pf	118½	-½	8.2	
132.80	Mid Kent Hdgs	767½	+12½	5.1	11.4
3,095.10	Severn Trent	913	-22	5.1	10.1
200.00	South Stafs	3390		3.5	14.0
1,162.00	South West†	885	-17½	5.4	11.2
3,378.20	Thames	989	+5	5.0	10.8
4,251.70	Utd Utilities	783	-33	6.1	12.7
1,022.20	Wessex	481½	-1	4.9	9.3
1,953.80	Yorkshire	511	-½	4.8	10.0

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
17.40	Abacus Recruit	267½	-37½	0.7	19.4
9.58	Cale Inns▼	195		1.9	14.8
101.00	Dawson Hdgst	171½	+8½	3.5	15.4
157.50	Freepages	32	-½		
23.80	Magdelonds	53½	-5½	0.5	29.4
20.50	Memory Corp	30			
89.80	Prism Rail	355		3.2	
22.00	Ransco Epy	735	-5	0.2	
188.80	Southern News	910	+54	3.3	15.7
18.30	Southern Vectis	92½		2.8	14.3
94.30	Trocaderot	18½	+1		

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. ^ Figures or report awaited. ... No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index.

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Gro red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)					
3,000	Treas 6¾% 1998	116¹¹⁄₃₂		3.98	7.60
8,150	Treas 7¼% 1998	100		7.25	7.36
970	Treas 14% 1998-01	101¹⁵⁄₁₆	-⅛	13.81	7.04
335	Treas 15½% 1998	104⅝	-⅛	14.82	6.98
3,909	Exch 12% 1998	103⅞		11.61	7.02
1,905	Treas 9½% 1999	102⅝	+⅛	9.31	6.97
1,050	Exch 12¼% 1999	105⅝	-⅛	11.63	6.94
1,252	Treas 10½% 1999	104⅝		10.08	6.84
6,952	Treas 6% 1999	99⅝	+⅛	6.06	6.89
1,738	Conv 10¼% 1999	105⅝	+⅛	9.71	6.71
5,358	Conv 9% 2000	104⅝	+⅛	8.63	6.60
9,930	Treas 8% 2000	103⅝	+⅛	7.71	6.49
109	Treas 8½% 2000	103⅛	+⅛	8.23	6.62
3,171	Treas 13% 2000	113⅝	+⅛	11.44	6.71
4,406	Treas 10% 2001	109⅝	+⅛	9.16	6.55
12,750	Treas 7% 2001	101⅝	+⅛	6.87	6.30
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)					
9,000	Treas 7% 2002	102⅝	+⅛	6.82	6.28
6,527	Treas 9¾% 2002	113⅝	+⅛	8.62	6.39
2,650	Treas 8% 2003	107⅝	+⅛	7.42	6.12
2,503	Treas 10% 2003	117⅝	-⅛	8.55	6.26
1,522	Treas 11½% 2001-04	113⅝	+⅛	10.14	6.57
543	Fund 3½% 1999-04	91⅝	+⅛	3.82	5.04
3,472	Conv 9½% 2004	117⅝	+⅛	8.08	6.21
6,500	Treas 6¾% 2004	103⅝	+⅛	6.53	6.15
10,373	Treas 8½% 2005	114⅝	+⅛	7.43	6.09
1,942	Conv 9½% 2005	118⅝	+⅛	8.00	6.18
2,200	Treas 12½% 2003-05	129⅝	+⅛	9.66	6.29
11,700	Treas 7¾% 2006	109⅝	+⅛	6.85	6.09
4,000	Treas 7¾% 2006	110⅝	+⅛	7.01	6.13
2,050	Treas 8% 2002-06	106⅝	+⅛	7.53	6.39
3,150	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	122⅝	+⅛	9.61	6.34
7,337	Treas 8½% 2007	115⅝	+⅛	7.26	6.12
9,000	Treas 7¼% 2007	108⅝	+⅛	6.66	6.04
5,621	Treas 9% 2008	122⅝	+⅛	7.33	6.04
3,450	Treas 8% 2009	115⅝	+⅛	6.90	6.05
4,750	Treas 6¼% 2010	101⅝	+⅛	6.15	6.05
5,273	Conv 9% 2011	126⅝	+⅛	7.12	6.08
5,386	Treas 9% 2012	127⅝	+⅛	7.05	6.09
1,009	Treas 5½% 2008-12	95⅜	+⅛	5.74	5.93
800	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	115⅝	+⅛	6.74	6.12
LONGS (over 15 years)					
6,100	Treas 8% 2013	118⅝	+⅛	6.73	6.08
13,787	Treas 8% 2015	121⅝	+⅛	6.60	6.02
7,550	Treas 8¾% 2017	130⅝	+⅛	6.70	6.05
16,500	Tr 8% 2021	124⅝	+⅛	6.40	5.99
UNDATED					
1,909	War Ln 3½%	57⅝	+⅛	6.09	
475	Treas 2½%	40⅝	+⅛	6.21	
359	Consols 4%	62⅝		6.37	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:				5%	3%
2,150	Treas IL 2½% 2001	198⅝	-⅛	2.76	3.07
2,400	Treas IL 2½% 2003	194⅝	+⅛	2.85	3.06
1,150	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	125⅝	+⅛	2.82	3.05
2,500	Treas IL 2% 2006	208⅝	+⅛	2.92	3.05
2,625	Treas IL 2½% 2009	189⅝	+⅛	2.94	3.04
3,100	Treas IL 2½% 2011	197⅝	+⅛	2.96	3.05
3,750	Treas IL 2½% 2013	164⅝	+⅛	2.97	3.05
3,825	Treas IL 2½% 2016	177⅝	+⅛	2.98	3.05
3,700	Treas IL 2½% 2020	172⅝	+⅛	3.01	3.07
3,850	Treas IL 2½% 2024	144⅝	+⅛	3.00	3.05
1,300	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	142⅝	+⅛	3.00	3.02

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Golden Hope Plantations, Kleinwort Development Fund, Manganese Bronze, Polypipe, Tay Homes, Zambia Copper Investments.
Finals: Broadcastle, Candover Investments, Capital & Regional Properties, CMG, Expamet, Hall Engineering, Hodder Headline, IMI, Mallett, Mirror Group, Pendragon, Readymix, Regal Hotel Group, Waste Recycling, World Telecom.
Economics: January industrial/manufacturing output, February producer prices.

TOMORROW

Interims: Cortecs, Pochin's, Redrow Group, Thomtons, JD Wetherspoon.
Finals: William Baird, BBA Group, BPP Holdings, Brent International, Edinburgh US Tracker, Independent Insurance, Keller Group, Norwich Union, Premier Oil, Prime People, PSD Group, Quaker am, Richardsons Westgarth, Scottish Media Group, SGB Group, United Carriers Group, Waterford Wedgwood, Williams, WSP Group, Wyevale Garden Centres.
Economics: British Retail Consortium February sales survey.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Benchmark Group.
Finals: BAT Industries, Church & Co, Haden MacLellan, Heywood Williams, Mithras Investment Trust, NMBZ Holdings, Pittards, PTS Group, Rentokil Initial, Schroders, TI Group.
Economics: Minutes of Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee's February meeting.

THURSDAY

Interims: MJ Gleeson, Kier Group.
Finals: Bilton, Gallaher Group, GKN, Hambro Countrywide, Jardine Lloyd Thompson, Legal & General, Molins, Orange, Reckitt & Colman, Synter Group, Telemetrix, Tilbury Douglas, United Biscuits, United News & Media, Xenova.
Economics: Gordon Brown takes Treasury questions in Commons.

FRIDAY

Interims: none scheduled.
Finals: Reed Elsevier, Vitec.
Economics: Fourth-quarter balance of payments figures, fourth-quarter GDP (final).

SUNDAY TIPS

The Express on Sunday: **Buy** Cookson and Ashtead Group, Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust. *Independent on Sunday:* **Buy** Perkins Foods; **Sell** Tesco. *The Mail on Sunday:* **Hold** Mice Group; **Sell** Shani. *The Sunday Telegraph:* **Buy** Psion, Perkins Foods, Telspec. *The Sunday Times:* **Buy** Daimler-Benz.

COMPANIES  MICHAEL CLARK

Court cases steal limelight at BAT

BAT INDUSTRIES: Full-year figures on Wednesday should produce a useful increase in profits before exceptionals. But events in the civil courts on both sides of the Atlantic may take centre stage and overshadow the trading performance of the group which includes big names such as Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star in its financial services arm.

Estimates at the pre-tax level range from £2.5 billion to £2.6 billion, against £2.41 billion last time. Earnings per share are likely to be up about 4 per cent at close to 49p. The exceptionals will include a £269 million charge relating to tobacco litigation payments. A charge of almost £300 million will relate to financing costs of the Zurich deal.

Meanwhile, the focus of attention will switch to prosecution immunity, continuing litigation and calls to ring-fence the tobacco business in case the financial services arm is affected by events in the courts. The payout is likely to be pegged at 26p.

RENTOKIL INITIAL: Was 1997 the year the wheels fell off Sir Clive Thompson's cleaning and building services group? For years he has lived by his promise to deliver earnings growth of at least 20 per cent per annum, but NatWest Markets, the broker, is convinced that he will fail to achieve the magical target this time.

It is forecasting pre-tax profits of £415 million, up 31 per cent, when Rentokil unveils full-year figures on Wednesday. But an increased tax charge and currency factors will have limited earnings growth to a modest 19 per cent at 10.2p.

The core businesses performed poorly in the second half of 1996 as the group struggled to digest BET. But early 1997 saw a positive start, with domestic operations such as hygiene, cleaning, personnel and pest control all performing better than expected. The payout should grow 20 per cent to 3p.

WILLIAMS: An upbeat trading statement in December gave a clear indication that full-year results tomorrow should make impressive reading. Pre-exceptional pre-tax profits are expected to come in at between £275 million and £288 million, compared with £248 million last time. But earnings per share should decline almost 10 per cent to 22p.

Fire protection has enjoyed strong growth in the US while in Europe business has been steady, if unspectacular. Security in this country enjoyed a pick-up in demand during the first half, coinciding with a revival in the housing market. Profits in this division are expected to grow by about 24 per cent to £52 million.

The home improvement division has enjoyed solid growth in the US but remains flat in Europe. The dividend is expected to grow from 15.1p to 15.3p net.

GKN: The strong pound will play a big part in full-year figures on Thursday. It is estimated that the hit in the second half could be between £25 million and £30 million. The estimate of pre-tax profits is pitched at between £400 million and £410 million, against £363.8 million last time.

The completion of the Kuwait armoured vehicle contract will provide a big boost to profits, and the lack of forward orders will be compensated for by the strong order book at Westland.

Meanwhile, there are fears that the group's strong position in the European automotive industry may have started to be eroded.

The dividend is set to grow by 10 per cent to 29p.

REED ELSEVIER: The proposed merger with Wolters Kluwer may overshadow full-year figures on Friday. This could be helpful because Reed International is expected to report a small downturn in pre-tax profits, from £805 million to about £800 million, with earnings per share down from 28.1p to 27.6p because of higher interest charges.

Once again currency factors will play an important part in the final outcome, with two thirds of revenues achieved overseas. There is still scope for an increase in the payout of about 7 per cent at 14.5p.



BAT's Martin Broughton and Lord Cairns hope there can be smoke without fire

NORWICH UNION: There have been plenty of rumours about the ultimate fate of Norwich Union, the life businesses of which have reportedly caught the eye of a number of UK banks. The results tomorrow, however, are unlikely to contain many surprises. Merrill Lynch is expecting a full-year figure of £610 million, up from £567 million last year, earnings per share of 21.5p and a dividend of 7.7p.

The increase in profit will come mainly from strong growth in the insurer's life businesses, which are expected to show a rise of 25 per cent. The general insurance result is expected to be broadly unchanged. Expenses, including the exceptional costs of the company's flotation last June, will be about £14 million.

LEGAL & GENERAL: Once again, life profits are likely to be the mainstay of L&G's results on Thursday. The overall profit figure is expected to rise from £291 million to about £325 million for the year.

Property problems in France and adverse currency movements are likely to hold back overseas results. The dividend is forecast to be 12.7p, up from 11.1p.

TI GROUP: A solid performance is expected from the group when it unveils final results on Wednesday. Pre-tax profits are likely to come in at between £215 million and £225 million. That compares with £211 million last time. Earnings will grow from 30p to 31p, with underlying growth reckoned to be in the order of 13 per cent.

TI has begun a hefty investment programme, which should lay the foundations for future earnings growth. The sale of its 50 per cent stake in Messier-Dowty will strengthen the balance sheet, providing a springboard for further investment. The payout should grow by about 10 per cent to 16p.

RECKITT & COLMAN: At first sight, full-year figures on Thursday are likely to make disappointing reading. Brokers expect pre-tax profits to come in at about £306 million, just £5 million higher than last time. But after stripping out currency factors and the impact of last year's special dividend payment, underlying growth will prove encouraging. Earnings per share will be up about 8 per cent at 51.5p.

But there is likely to be evidence of a slowdown during the second half, with demanding conditions in Brazil and growing competition in the US, while the crisis in South-East Asia will have taken its toll. The dividend is expected to grow 2p to 23.8p.

UNITED BISCUITS: Profits will be down sharply when the group reports final figures on Thursday. Pre-tax profits are expected to be down at between £65 million and £74 million, from £109 million last time. This will be struck after hefty losses on disposals and restructuring charges. Earnings will be almost halved at 7.8p a share.

UB has already acknowledged that the millennium bug problem is likely to cost £15 million. But after recent disposals the group is likely to have cash in the bank of about £60 million. The dividend will be marginally higher at 10.3p.

GALLAHER GROUP: Full-year results on Thursday will show a useful improvement in profits, with analysts forecasting pre-tax profits of about £310 million, up from £296 million. Earnings will be virtually static at 31.4p. The group will have benefited from Benson & Hedges' price increases and cost reductions from Sovereign. There should also be evidence of an increase in domestic market share. A first-time dividend of 19.25p is forecast.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

The British statistical week begins with important new evidence on both activity and prices in manufacturing. Figures for industrial production, due out today, are expected to show a marginal rise of 0.1 per cent in January, leaving industrial output 0.1 per cent up on a year ago, according to a market consensus compiled by Standard & Poor's MMS. Manufacturing output is also expected to have registered a 0.1 per cent rise, leaving activity 0.4 per cent higher than at the same stage last year.

Producer prices figures for February are also due out today. Input prices are forecast to have fallen by 0.4 per cent in the month as the strong pound made imports cheaper. That would leave input prices 9 per cent lower than a year ago. Output prices are expected to have risen by only a marginal 0.1 per cent, leaving them only 0.9 per cent higher than a year ago.

Tomorrow, the British Retail Consortium releases its survey of high street activity, a closely watched indicator given fears that consumer demand remains too strong. In addition, the House of Commons Treasury Select Committee is to hear testimony on European economic and monetary union.

On Wednesday, the markets will focus on publication of minutes from the February meeting of the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee. The MPC left interest rates unchanged last month, as well as at its meeting last week, but the markets want to know how the committee is split in order to ascertain whether rates have peaked.

On Friday, final figures for fourth-quarter gross domestic product are to be released with a full breakdown of activity, including a comprehensive look at the current account of the balance of payments. The balance is of intense interest, with City economists giving warning of a deterioration as the strong pound dampens exports while robust domestic demand sucks in imports.

JANET BUSH

Emerson advisers test patience of institutions

BY MARTIN BARROW

CAZENOVE, the blue-blooded City stockbroker, and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the leading investment bank, are antagonising their institutional investors by continuing to advise Emerson Electric in the American company's controversial battle to take full control of Astec (BSR).

Emerson, an $18 billion (£11.3 billion) business, remains defiant in the face of a vociferous campaign by Astec's minority shareholders to force it to make a significantly higher offer for their shares. Now the shareholders are set to put pressure on Emerson's UK advisers, who are said to be uneasy over the intensity of the protest.

A source said: "Emerson doesn't mind upsetting people in the City. But once they have gone home to St Louis, Caz and Morgan Grenfell will be left to pick up the pieces. It is up to the advisers to persuade Emerson it cannot get away with ripping off investors."

Emerson, which has yet to table a formal takeover bid for Astec, proposes to offer 111p a share, the market price at the time it announced its intentions. Astec shares closed at 126½p on Friday, valuing the company, a manufacturer of computer power supplies, at around £400 million. Some analysts believe it is worth more than 170p a share.

Emerson has threatened to block future dividend payments if the buyout is not completed, while Astec directors opposed to Emerson's plan are likely to be removed from the board at today's extraordinary meeting. Emerson's majority stake ensures that today's meeting is a formality. Three directors expected to be removed are Neal Stewart, technical director, who co-founded the company 27 years ago; Michael Smith, chief operating officer; and Michael Arrowsmith, finance director.

Their removal will be used as evidence to support a High Court case brought by Electra Fleming, Norwich Union and Equitable Life that Emerson's actions damage the interests of other shareholders in breach of section 459 of the Companies Act 1985.

Independent directors, led by chairman Brian Christopher, also oppose Emerson. They are being advised by SBC Warburg.

Emerson, whose legal adviser is Norton Rose, has said it will vigorously defend the action. Astec, based in Hong Kong, has manufacturing operations across Asia. Emerson took a 45 per cent stake in Astec in 1985 when Astec acquired five Emerson businesses.



On call: Skillbase aims to bring confidence back into a service with a poor reputation

London Int buys Czech group

LONDON International Group, the maker of Durex condoms and surgical gloves, is stepping up expansion by acquiring a distribution business in Czechoslovakia from Procter & Gamble (Carl Mortished writes).

It is also launching new production facilities in the US and India. LIG is buying the Czech distributor, Tambrands sro, which has sales of £3.4 million and distributes condoms and brands for Cussons and Reckitt & Coleman.

The deal is aimed at securing and improving LIG's future access to markets in Eastern Europe. LIG will also open a new condom plant this week in India to take production to 1 billion pieces per year.

LIG has a 50 per cent share of the branded market in India, but of even greater importance is its part of the government-subsidised family planning market. It says it has a 30 per cent share worldwide.

Mowlem fights repair 'cowboys' with Skillbase

BY JON ASHWORTH

MOWLEM, the construction company that built London City Airport, is taking on the "cowboys" with a 24-hour home repair and improvement service.

Skillbase, whose employees drive branded vans and carry identification, is expected to generate revenues of more than £30 million in the 1998 financial year.

The service is currently available in the Midlands, Scotland and the South of England, and is set to be national in the next few years, with turnover anticipated to reach £100 million within five years.

Brian May, the managing director, said Mowlem is seeking higher margin activities to complement its core skills in construction. The home maintenance and improvement sector was less-exposed to the economic cycle than construction.

Skillbase hopes to provide consumers with a reliable alternative to the "cowboy" operator, picked at random from the telephone directory. It aims to provide the service at the same cost as the "cowboys", since the sheer volume of business should keep costs down.

Mr May said: "We are looking to bring a bit of confidence into a market which does not have a particularly good reputation." The venture builds on Mowlem's recent tie-up with Commercial Union, which provides a building repair service for domestic insurance claims.

☐ The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) is considering tackling the sector's skills shortage by introducing ten-week crash courses to part-train bricklayers.

Frazer Clement, CITB southeast manager, told *Building* magazine: "The idea is that they would be able to build a wall in a straight line that will stand up and is sound, but get experienced bricklayers to finish off."

The GMB general union dismissed the initiative as "a particularly stupid idea".

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THE POUND

US dollar
1.6372 (-0.0085)
German mark
2.9995 (+0.0122)
Exchange index
105.4 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
3851.4 (+100.0)
FTSE 100
5782.9 (+15.6)
New York Dow Jones
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
17131.97 (+300.3)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 39

CRYPTOCHROMISM

(c) A secret colour or camouflage: "Richard's grey pinstripe interview suit was less of a misleading cryptochromism, and more a statement of life intent."

FEBRIFUGE

(b) A fever reliever. From the Latin words for something that chases fever away. Anodynic, in the sense of something able to assuage pain. Something which is soothing to the sensibilities.

MUNG

(c) Verb — to mix or to knead. Can be used in context of a search for something. "The murderer failed in his endeavour, for he was busy munging around in the drawer for a knife when the police came."

PHYSIOCRAT

(a) A landowner, and specifically, one who believes that all wealth derives from real estate. "In her move from small flat to mansion house, Miss Melville-James had become something of a physiocrat."

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CORPORATE PROFILE: SAFEWAY

THE FACTS

Turnover: £8.59 billion
Pre-tax profit: £421 million
Employees: 55,000
Number of stores: 490
Total sales area: 5.5 million square feet
Brands: Safeway, Presto

THE BOARD

David Webster, the chairman, is the last remaining member of the Argyll retail trio who built the foundations for Safeway. He succeeded Sir Alistair Grant, who left in March last year. Has been on the board since the formation of Argyll Group in 1977. A non-executive director of Reed International.

Colin Smith, chief executive, has been with the company since 1979. He became finance director 14 years ago, and succeeded Sir Alistair as chief executive in December 1993.

Simon Laffin has been finance director since May 1996 after working his way up through the Safeway board.

Other directors include **Gordon Wotherspoon**, managing director, property and development. He has been with the company since he was 22.

Roger Partington shot to fame working on the launch of Safeway's ABC card and its self-scanning system. He is former marketing director of Nestlé. Now looked upon to help to restore Safeway's image.

Michael Allen became a non-executive director two years ago. He was formerly vice-chairman of Procter & Gamble, one of Safeway's largest suppliers, and he is a director of Alliance & Leicester.

Neville Bain became a non-executive director four years ago. A former chief executive of Coats Viyella, he chairs Safeway's audit committee. He has just been recruited as chairman of the Post Office.

Ann Burdus joined with Mr Bain as a non-executive director. She also sits on the boards of Prudential, Dawson International and Next. Chairs remuneration committee.

Hugh Collum, the chief financial officer of SmithKline Beecham, joined as a non-executive director last October. Formerly finance director of Cadbury Schweppes and Courage.

Listen to anyone in the City, and they will say that Safeway's days as an independent company are numbered. After recent profits warnings, admission of weakness and abysmal sales figures, analysts shake their heads and reflect that its shares are not long for this world.

Ever since admitting to merger talks with Asda five months ago, Safeway has been stuck with the image of an exhausted giant waiting for a takeover to put it out of its misery. In the space of a year, Safeway seems to have been transformed from an established top flight retailer to one of the most vulnerable stocks in the FTSE 100.

What has gone wrong? Some of the problems are deep-seated, but City awareness of them has become keener since Sir Alistair Grant left the board in March last year. With James Gulliver and David Webster, Sir Alistair built the Argyll Group and began the concentration of the UK grocery sector in the early 1980s.

Safeway stores had been trading in the UK since 1962, as a division of their American parent company. Two years after it lost to Guinness in the notorious battle for Distillers, Argyll determined to concentrate on groceries and bought Safeway's UK business.

Sir Alistair lost no time in agreeing a deal with the Americans. "They approached me on the Wednesday and I accepted on the Friday," he recalls. "It was one of the quickest deals I have ever made."

The Fine Fare business was welded into the stronger Safeway brand, and by 1993 the group became the UK's third-largest supermarket operator. Sir Alistair then decided on a change of pace. Rather than race rivals for edge-of-town supermarket sites, he switched focus to internal controls and winning the right kind of customers. As part of the project, Safeway 2000, Colin Smith moved from finance director to chief executive, while Sir Alistair became chairman.

The project, which still governs Safeway's strategy, was straightforward. The superstores were still a mish-mash of old formats with new badges. They had no particular direction and needed a target market of their own.

Sir Alistair and Mr Smith decided that young parents were their unexploited market, and forecast that they have enough spending power to guarantee Safeway's growth until the new millennium. To this day, with each profits warning Safeway turns in, Mr Smith comforts himself with data showing that Safeway is still winning market share among mothers with small children: their custom has grown 43 per cent a year (or so the figures say). The only problem is that most of the other customers have been drifting away.

The first sign of Safeway's sales slump came in November as it gave warning that like-for-like sales growth — the measure by which retailers live or die — had ground to a halt since August. At first, no one seemed to know what had gone wrong. Mr Smith could only point to renewed growth at J Sainsbury and shrug. The play for young families was succeeding, he insisted, but something else seemed to have gone deeply wrong.

Two profits warnings later, a clearer picture has emerged. Safeway's play for family custom had been at the expense of its other customers. By pulling out the experimental foods and filling shelves with sure-fire sellers, the second-line customers had been alienated.

City analysts point to a store portfolio that aches from underinvestment. Of the £60 million a year saved from Safeway 2000, more than £20 million went on advertising — more than either Asda or Tesco. However, some basic retailing disciplines had been ignored, and the advertising could not compensate for that.

In the areas Safeway has concentrated on, it has done exceptionally well. Its Harry and Molly talking toddler adverts are widely hailed as one of the most successful campaigns attempted by a supermarket chain, with a 60 per cent recall rate.

To make life easier for the mothers with young families, the company has gone to astonishing lengths. But none of this counts for anything if customers come in to the stores and find empty shelves, fresh food with short sell-by dates and an erratic mix of prices.

Mr Smith has been criticised for taking his eye off the basics, for instance, when the central computer crashed in August, disrupting the supply chain. The crash was seen as the inevitable consequence of years of underinvestment. The company has also been disadvantaged by the size and mix of its stores. And it is saddled with a widespread perception that its prices are not as keen as some of its competitors. With the problems now affecting profits, Mr Smith has decided to take action. Last month he dismissed George Charters as head of trading. The City took this as a signal that Safeway is in deep trouble. Mr Smith has since admitted that Safeway had been investing too little and has earmarked an extra £40 million for catching up with its rivals. Although many in the City are calling for his head, Safeway's institutional investors have shown remarkable understanding. They praise his realism, and have effectively given him seven months to sort out the mess.

They may be hoping for a takeover, but Mr Smith insists that he has had no more calls from Archie Norman, Asda's chairman. Even though relations between the two are understood to have soured of late, the industrial logic behind a merger — which offers £200 million of cost savings — remains compelling. Whether it would appeal to Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, is the crucial issue. According to Verdict, the retail consultancy, Safeway commands 8.1 per cent of the UK supermarket sector and Asda 8.8 per cent. Together, they would be the largest in the UK — just pipping Tesco's 16.8 per cent share. But there would be areas where the two command a much higher market share.

Undoubtedly, it is the hope of a deal that has buoyed the shares of late. In the past year, Safeway outperformed its sector by 11 per cent.

Safeway fares well in our "fat-cat" league, with a maximum ten points from Crisp Consulting. Sir Alistair received total remuneration of £1.58 million in the last financial year, making him 27 per cent underpaid, according to the Crisp model. Non-executives' pay was slightly above average.

Safeway's ethical expression falls some way short of best practice, according to Integrity Works. It could be improved by being less disjointed and recognising the importance of offering a speedy and succinct explanation of what the group will and will not stand for when it comes to standards of business conduct. Safeway's attitude towards its employees is somewhat tainted by its current drive to shed anyone who is not essential. Its head office has seen substantial job losses, and managers are being told to cut staff costs by 5 per cent.

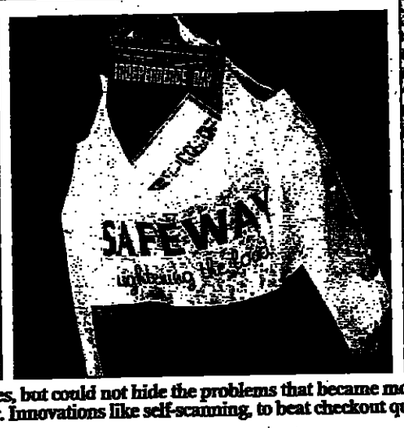
Every large supermarket has stumbled at some stage in recent years, and some say that Safeway could not have avoided its remedial phase before returning to growth. But unless Safeway can find a takeover partner soon, the road to recovery will be long and lonely.

FRASER NELSON









Harry and Molly, top, attracted young families, but could not hide the problems that became more apparent after the retirement of Sir Alistair Grant, pictured between Colin Smith, left, and David Webster. Innovations like self-scanning, to beat checkout queues, may not be enough to maintain Safeway's independence

"The management are behaving admirably in that they are now running the business for the long term rather than with one eye on a takeover bid. They are going for long-term sales growth, not a short-term fix, and this will bring long-term profits growth. But at the moment, Safeway is at its peak point of vulnerability. If a bid is coming, it will come sooner rather than later."
David McCarthy, NatWest Markets

"Safeway have had a very tough time, and they now need to find a point of differentiation which will separate them from the rest. The management need to return to the fundamentals. The key question to their future is whether they can reinvent their business and renew their store base. The alternative is to merge with Asda and get huge cost savings."
Mike Dennis, SG Securities

Ethical expression[1]	2/10
Fat-cat quotient[2]	10/10
Financial record	3/10
Share performance	6/10
Attitude to employees	5/10
Strength of brand	6/10
Innovation	8/10
Annual report	6/10
City star rating	3/10
Future prospects	5/10
Total	54/100

[1] Ethical policy is evaluated by Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by Crisp Consulting

Pensions hit by missing trustees

BY RICHARD MILES

PENSIONERS are denied tens of millions of pounds each year because their pension scheme's sole trustee vanishes, according to the industry's watchdog.

The Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (Opra), which is responsible for company pensions, says thousands of employees miss out on their pensions if the scheme's trustee cannot be traced to authorise the release of the money.

The "missing trustee" syndrome has been the biggest problem encountered by Opra since its launch in April last year, even though its remit includes fraud, maladministration and insolvency. One leading pension provider has admitted privately to the authority that it has 700 such cases on its books.

However, the company says that it is unable to act, because only the trustee can authorise the release of the money.

The extent of the problem is so great that Opra is attempting to establish a panel of 80 volunteer trustees who can be drafted into a company where the original trustee has gone missing. The volunteer trustees include both lay and professional advisers.

A typical victim is someone who has worked for a company that went bankrupt during the recession in the early 1980s. The employer, who was the sole trustee of the company pension scheme, has gone to ground after the collapse of the firm.

In the past, the employee's only course has been to go to the courts to seek release of the money. This has proved prohibitively expensive for many workers whose pensions are worth at best several thousand pounds.

Opra says that it cannot determine the full extent of the problem because many employees do not know until they reach retirement age that the trustee cannot be traced.

Police to sue Allied Dunbar

BY ADAM JONES

ALLIED DUNBAR, the financial services group, has been accused of defrauding police officers, who are now pursuing a claim for damages in the High Court.

Thirteen plaintiffs from Gloucestershire and Wiltshire have lodged a writ claiming damages and interest payments from Allied Dunbar Assurance, Allied Dunbar Unit Trusts and Allied Dunbar Provident.

Their claims include deceit, fraudulent misrepresentation, negligence, breach of contract and breach of statutory duty, from 1987 onwards, but do not involve the mis-selling of personal pension plans.

Allied Dunbar, part of BAT Industries, said it had no knowledge of the writ, which was issued on February 27.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.54	2.37
Austria Sch	22.10	20.44
Belgium Fr	64.94	59.98
Canada $	2.447	2.259
Cyprus Cpnd	0.919	0.847
Denmark Kr	12.00	11.11
Finland Mkk	9.83	8.88
France Fr	10.51	9.73
Germany Dm	3.18	2.92
Greece Dr	500	461
Hong Kong $	13.50	12.30
Iceland	132	112
Ireland Pt	1.28	1.17
Israel Shk	6.26	5.61
Italy Lire	3120	2883
Japan Yen	224.09	206.98
Malta	0.696	0.627
Netherlds Gld	3.585	3.270
New Zealand $	2.98	2.74
Norway Kr	13.05	12.11
Portugal Esc	318.77	296.74
S Africa Rd	8.85	7.89
Spain Pta	265.30	244.51
Sweden Kr	13.66	12.59
Switzerland Fr	2.59	2.37
Turkey Lira	368668	368660
USA $	1.749	1.600

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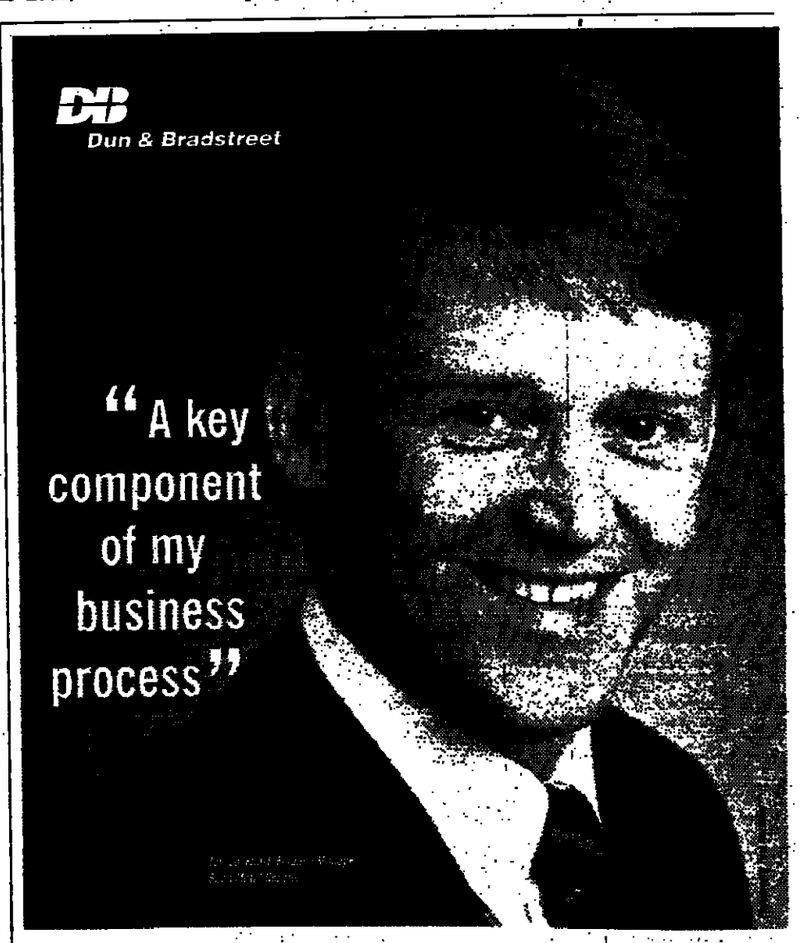
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Sainsbury looked at Safeway

J Sainsbury, the supermarket group, is understood to have considered making an offer for Safeway to prevent its smaller rival linking with Asda. Safeway held merger talks with Asda last year but they were abandoned after becoming public. However, analysts regard Safeway as vulnerable because of its continuing trading problems.

Sainsbury could not confirm or deny reports that Lord Sainsbury, the chairman, had made a secret £2 million donation to the Labour Party before the last election. A spokesman said: "Sainsbury the company does not and never has given political donations. Anything else is a private matter." Profile, page 48

Med spreads

SFI Group, the pub operator formerly known as Surrey Free Inns, will start to roll out its Bar Med concept this week. After a successful one-year trial in Bournemouth, the group will open a second Bar Med in Bristol. Further openings are planned in Beaconsfield and Cardiff. Bar Med changes its spots during the course of trading from a café bar with a Mediterranean theme by day to a pre-club venue with a DJ at night.

Friendly set-up

Liverpool Victoria, the largest UK friendly society, is to set up a corporate pensions business and a retail funds operation. Liverpool Victoria Asset Management will offer global asset allocation and directly manage UK equity, bond, cash and property assets. It will bring in specialists for overseas markets.

Milken makes a comeback in deal with Oracle

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

MICHAEL MILKEN, the disgraced junk-bond king recently fined $47 million for breaking his probation agreement, is continuing to work with some of America's most prominent businessmen and is embarking on a new venture with Larry Ellison, the head of the Oracle software group.

The Securities and Exchange Commission fined Mr Milken last month for repeatedly violating the life ban from the securities industry that he received in 1991. Despite serving two years in prison and paying more than $1 billion in fines because of his involvement in the world's biggest insider trading scandal, company chief executives had continued to seek his advice.

One Government investigator said: "I guess you can take Milken out of the securities business but you can't take the securities business out of Milken."

Mr Milken has now teamed up with Mr Ellison, the second-biggest software mogul in America after Bill Gates, to offer employee training programmes to companies. The new venture is called Knowledge Universe and aims to use the Internet to teach via computers and without needing a classroom.

Employees will log into the Milken Web site or load up his software and receive their instructions directly on the screen. They can do so from anywhere they like, say, during a flight or while recuperating from illness at home.

Running Knowledge Universe does not violate Mr Milken's agreement with the US authorities to leave the securities industry for good. But his company is likely to benefit from the many contacts he made as America's most celebrated financier in the 1980s. He still has a fortune estimated at $500 million.

Together with Oracle, Mr Milken is offering staff training courses across continents and at much reduced prices compared with traditional classroom teaching. The main focus will be on enabling programmers, systems analysts and computer engineers to brush up on essential information technology skills.

Mr Milken has already run into problems. Last October he hired Joseph Costello, the chief executive of Cadence Design Systems, a software company. Mr Costello has since left the company after a disagreement with Mr Milken. Mr Costello claims that he was promised by Mr Milken that he would be made chief executive of Knowledge Universe. Instead, he found that the company was being run by a five-man committee with no chief executive.

There was also a disagreement over the venture's future direction. Mr Costello wanted to focus on organic growth, while Mr Milken, a veteran of 1980s leveraged buyouts and hostile takeovers, wanted to concentrate on deal-making.



Michael Milken still has a fortune estimated at $500 million

Council poised for big stake in soccer

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

LEEDS City Council is about to become one of the largest shareholders in the Leeds United football club.

The council will be in this position because it agreed to accept £2.5 million of shares in Leeds Sporting, the club's parent company, as part payment for selling the lease to United's Elland Road ground for £11 million. A fall in the share price of Leeds Sporting since December means that the council will have to take a stake 25 per cent bigger than it originally envisaged.

The council could also find itself under pressure to increase its stake if Leeds is forced to return to the market to fund its £40 million stadium redevelopment plan.

The closing date for the deal is Friday and the Leeds share price could come under renewed pressure today after Saturday's defeat by Wolverhampton Wanderers cost Leeds a lucrative appearance in the FA Cup semi-final.

Leeds Sporting shares rose from a record low of 15¾p to close at 17¾p on Friday, just below the 18p float price. If the deal is completed at this price, the council would have a stake of nearly 5 per cent in the company, formerly called Caspian.

Verdict predicts cull of high street outlets

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

INEFFICIENT high street retailers, particularly those selling clothing, footwear and furnishing, will be forced to close branches in the future because supply has outstripped underlying consumer demand, a new report claims.

In their place will come operators in high-growth sectors, such as sportswear, according to forecasts by Verdict, the retail consultant.

The average high street store is 25 per cent larger than a decade ago, with many chains, such as Marks & Spencer and Next, having undergone extensive refurbishment programmes to expand floorspace for a broader range of products and services.

Many older and smaller superstores built in the early to mid-1980s are now proving to be "an unproductive burden", Verdict says. A spokesman added: "The trend is towards larger superstores, such as B&Q Warehouse or new Currys megastores, in order to display a more authoritative range. Planning battles to extend existing superstores are, on the whole, easier than securing permission for large new outlets."

Verdict said that it did not believe that various forms of electronic shopping would make any impact on demand for retail space in the next three years. Current Internet systems were too cumbersome and offered disappointing picture quality, it said. Although quality is predicted to improve, the delivery process remains the weak link, especially for bulky goods such as foods.

Verdict said that shopping is seen as an enjoyable leisure activity and improvements to shopping centres would enhance this. The total UK retail sales area was 468 million sq ft in 1996. This is forecast to grow by 9 million sq ft by the end of 1998 and by a further 5 million sq ft by 2001.

"While this reflects a much improved economic picture, it represents a much more modest rate of growth than the boom years of the 1980s," a spokesman said. "More restrained growth in retail spending over the forecast period will not provide as many opportunities for major development."

W H Smith in £60m takeover

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

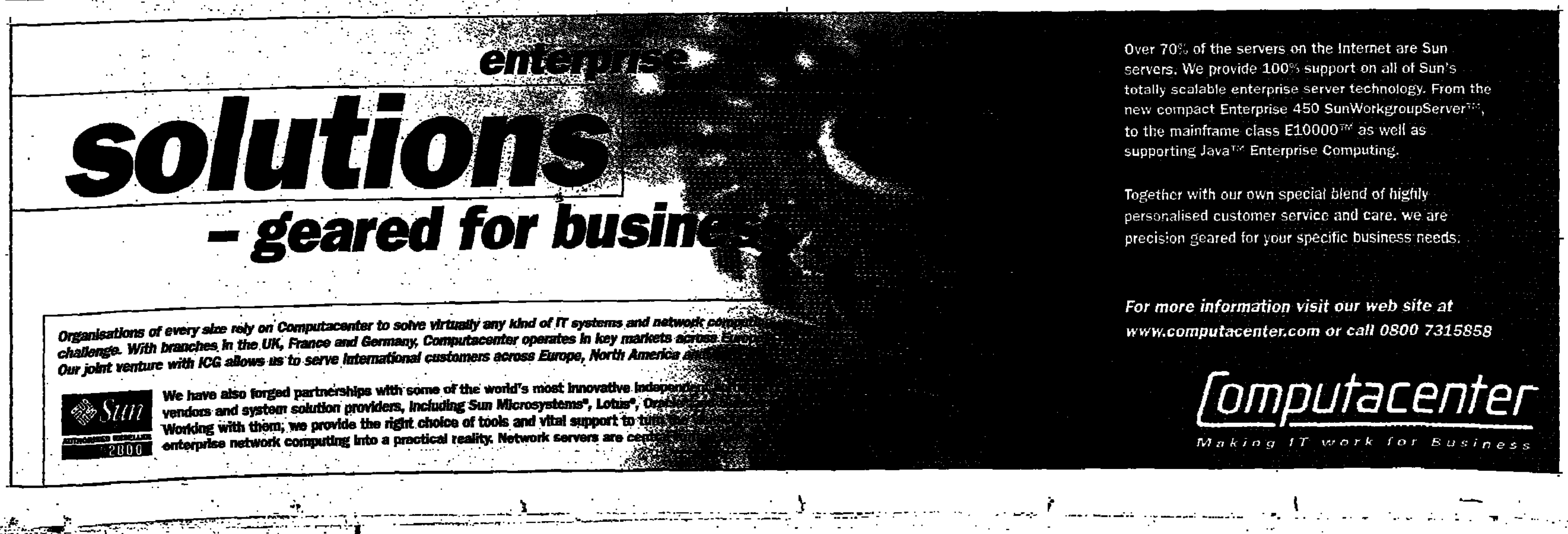
W H SMITH, the news and books retailer, will announce a £60 million takeover of the John Menzies retail chain this week. The deal will provide W H Smith with about 80 stores in Scotland and 150 in the rest of Britain.

The group is expected to make cost savings of more than £10 million and strive to improve margins. Most Menzies stores outside Scotland are likely to be rebranded as W H Smiths.

The acquisition will increase W H Smith's presence to about 730 stores. It has about 400 high street shops and 100 outlets in stations and airports. The format of the Menzies stores expected to be changed, partly by providing more space for books and magazines.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1997/98 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price pence	Wkly +/–	Yld %	P/E
139½	100½	12.30	AFA Systems	102½	...	...	...
153½	120½	17.20	AMCO Corp	130½	...	6.7	6.1
422½	170	63.10	AND Int Pub	265	+ 32½	...	...
370	84½	17.40	Abacus Recruit	267½	– 37½	0.7	18.4
250	99½	42.80	[illegible]	258	...	2.4	...
265	200	38.70	A de Gruchy	260	...	3.5	13.2
11¼	6	7.20	African Gold	7	– ¼	...	39.4
45½	31¼	16.10	Albemarle & Bd	42½	– 1	1.5	14.0
52½	29	6.14	Alizyme	35½	...	...	...
111½	73½	2.40	Anglo-Welsh	77½	...	1.6	...
610	455	57.20	Ann St Brewery	590	...	4.6	10.6
1240	1015	7.04	Ann St Cv Pf	1187½	...	6.7	...
129½	55½	60.10	Antonov	78½	– 5½	...	...
148½	99½	17.60	Aortech	102½	...	...	...
105	90	4.68	Aran Resources	90	...	5.8	...
100½	50	7.14	Archer Dedicated	70	...	1.4	...
272½	130	56.70	Ask Central	272½	+ 20	0.2	42.2
69½	62½	1.25	Athelney Trust	69½	...	2.0	...
32	9½	15.80	Atlantic Caspian	22½	...	...	...
103½	56½	48.60	Avalon Oil	64	– 2½	...	...
152½	120½	46.60	BATM Adv Comms	150	...	2.0	...
201½	148½	34.00	BCO Technologies	190½	+ 7	...	...
233½	220	35.90	BGR	230	...	1.6	23.8
240	8½	5.03	BKG Res	12½	+ 4	...	...
3¾	3	2.38	Bakery Services	3¼	...	...	76.9
61½	25	10.50	Barbican Health	54½	– 3	...	...
12½	6½	22.90	Barrasford	8½	...	...	...
3¼	1¾	3.30	Beechcroft	1¾	...	3.8	6.7
4½	1	4.38	Beaufort	2¼	...	3.8	22.7
45½	35½	6.04	Bickerton	39½	...	...	23.7
105	60	1.44	Billam	90	+ 5	7.6	...
76½	41½	4.49	Bilston Bursa	50½	...	3.7	26.1
2¼	1	6.07	Birchin Intl	1½	+ ¼	...	...
1¼	0¾	0.07	Birchin Wts	0¾	...	...	...
64	33½	20.50	Birmingham City	41	+ ½	...	16.3
80½	44½	4.95	Blakes Cloth	49½	...	3.7	5.4
90	68	11.20	Bond Intl Soft	82	...	...	22.8
285	145	1.98	Bowness Leis	282½	+ 7½	3.3	10.0
52½	27½	5.06	Brancote Hldgs	27½	...	...	...
105	85	3.86	Br Bloodstock	92	...	2.7	11.1
18½	16½	0.73	Buckland Inv	17½	...	...	...
12	8	0.08	Buckland Inv Wts	10	...	...	...
255	144½	29.70	CA Coutts Hldgs	252	– 1½	1.6	20.1
180	128½	11.50	C & B Publishing	180	...	...	13.3
109½	109½	0.12	CCI Founder Shs	109½	...	...	...
190½	140½	1.28	CCI Hldgs	142½	...	2.2	...
217	170	9.58	Cafe Inns	195	...	1.9	14.8
70	55	7.38	Caledonian Tst	68	...	...	7.4
19	9	3.88	Cambridge Min Res	15½	– ¾	...	...
3¼	2	3.38	Canbury Inv	2¼	...	...	...
1½	0½	0.68	Canbury Inv Wts	0¾	...	...	...
62	29	59.20	Card Clear	47½	– 1¼	0.7	...
97½	45½	4.60	Carisbrooke Ship	45½	– 5	2.7	40.9
62	40	2.97	Cassidy Bros	54	– 1	6.9	...
57½	42½	2.22	Cavendish W	50½	...	4.2	23.2
18	9	7.67	Celebrated Group	12½	+ ¼	2.9	22.5
£550	£195	94.50	Celtic	£315	–1000	...	9.0
£450	£195	56.40	Celtic Pf Shs	£305	–500	1.2	...
112½	71½	19.40	CI Comms(TV)	88½	+ 3	4.4	10.3
65	49½	11.40	Charlton Athletic	49½	– 1	...	...
10¼	6¼	10.00	Charterhouse Coms	10	+ 1	3.3	11.7
170	86	145.60	Chelsea Village	93	+ 1	...	...
265	65	5.18	Chemical Design	78½	– 3	...	...
109½	92½	35.30	Citadel	107	...	...	...
113	90	0.85	Clan Homes	95	...	...	35.3
4½	2	0.84	ClubPartners	2	...	...	...
36½	7	13.10	Coflex Rep	24	+ ½	...	...
177½	105½	22.00	Comino	169½	+ 13	1.6	14.3
587½	307½	7.38	Com de Prt Fin	307½	...	3.8	...
215	109½	12.00	Computerland UK	200	– 6	0.9	22.2
30	14	8.49	Concurrent Tech	17½	...	1.4	33.8
150	95	0.25	Conc Tech A Prf	100	...	...	...
150	95	0.20	Conc Tech B Prf	100	...	...	...
200	125	1.01	Conc Tech Rd Pf	150	...	...	...
300	150	0.17	Conc Tech Cv Pf	225	...	...	...
41	31½	6.64	Conister Tst	40	+ 1½	6.2	10.1
4½	1¾	4.29	Corporate Exec	2¾	+ 1	...	45.9
37½	6½	6.19	Creos Intl	14½	– ½	...	...
153½	146½	7.52	Cresco Intl	147½	...	...	...
290	190	3.24	Crown Eye	202½	...	7.7	54.8
28½	1¼	0.82	Crown Products	1¾	...	...	4.4
29½	18½	1.32	Dalkeith Inns	27½	...	...	9.7
287½	115	13.80	Dawn Til Dusk	287½	+ 5	1.3	22.9
262½	155	101.00	Dawson Hldgs	171½	+ 6½	3.5	15.4
350	167½	28.80	Deep Sea Leisure	330	+ 5	...	46.9
4½	2	4.20	Denmaster	3¼	+ ¼	3.5	14.1
105½	52½	7.94	Digital Animo	54	– 8½	...	...
135½	74½	10.70	Delyn Group	123½	– 5	2.0	...
72½	21½	4.14	Dnatek	22	...	...	...
387½	240	18.50	Dobbies Garden	385	– 2½	1.5	...
214½	122½	21.40	Dragons Health	213½	+ 4	0.4	24.0
3½	2	2.65	Drings of Bath	3½	+ ¼	...	22.5
242½	197½	8.09	Durlacher	217½	...	...	43.3
42½	30	3.38	Eagle	34½	...	...	...
112½	49½	23.10	Easynet	112½	+ 12	...	...
462½	207½	59.40	Elec Retail Sys	280	– 2½	...	...
80½	27½	32.80	Electrophoretics	42	– 1½	...	...
52½	7½	3.67	Epic Multimedia	15¾	– ¼	...	...
65	45	11.60	Epicure Netwks	45	...	...	...
275	95	3.52	Eurasia Mining	95	...	...	...
320	125	26.90	Euro Sales Fn	292½	+ 20	...	20.8
3¾	2¾	3.69	Fairplace Cons	3	...	1.5	25.1
350	140	5.20	Farlake	200	...	1.2	...
77½	47½	11.40	Feyrewood	54½	...	3.0	15.5
215	84½	82.90	Fibernet	212½	+ 28½	...	...
69½	25½	1.32	Fieldens	26½	...	...	49.2
14½	2	0.46	Final Infor	2¼	...	...	...
279½	109½	89.20	Fitness First	271	+ 3½	...	62.2
230	110	3.12	Flomerics	120	...	3.1	58.8
292½	52½	2.29	Floral St	74	– 12	2.5	4.9
32½	22½	4.72	FNR Hldgs	22½	...	...	...
152½	95½	10.20	Forsscan	96½	+ 1	3.6	10.9
165½	89½	14.90	Fountain Forestry	165½	...	2.1	24.4
51¼	26½	157.50	Freepages	32	– ¾	...	...
186	140½	11.20	Furlong Homes	186	+ ½	3.8	...
164½	62	8.71	Future Int Telep	87½	– 1½	...	...
296	129½	15.60	GB Railways	177½	– 1	...	9.4
65	47½	6.27	GR Hldgs	47½	...	...	21.1
55½	45½	15.40	Gall Thomson Env	49½	+ 2	3.2	10.1
16¼	11½	35.10	Gander Hldgs	12	...	...	...
127½	82½	102.20	Gartland W&B	117½	+ 3	2.6	6.5
35½	29½	1.42	General Inds	35½	...	...	...
168½	54½	140.58	Geo Int Media	140½	+ 3	...	...
33½	12	28.80	Gold Mines Sard	22	...	...	...
26	7	6.43	Gold Mns Sard Wts	12	...	...	...
171½	123½	26.50	Gooch & Housego	156½	...	1.2	24.4
27	14	1.46	Griffin Mining	14	– 1	...	...
2½	2½	0.03	Griffin Mng Wts	2½	...	...	...
3½	2¾	2.75	Grosmont Hldgs	2¾	...	...	...
1¾	0½	1.50	Grosmont Hldgs Wts	1¼	...	...	...
15¼	11¼	2.83	Grosvenor Ltd	14½	...	...	...
175	140	39.20	Guilon	173½	+ 1½	3.5	13.1
8¾	5¾	2.39	Hansom	6¼	...	...	...
175	140	13.10	Hardy Undwtg	142	...	1.8	31.5
80½	44½	2.75	Hal Pin	62½	...	5.4	20.7
325	275	6.83	Heavitree	325	+ 4½	2.9	16.3
275	245	11.60	Heavitree A	275	+ 4½	3.4	13.8
135	70½	4.63	Helicon Pubg	78½	– 1	...	...
400	110	25.00	Hercules Prop	385	...	0.8	17.8
230	105	20.50	Highams Sys	230	+ 25	...	26.1
137½	120½	8.29	Highland Timber	127½	...	...	...
93	65	1.24	Hurlingham	77½	...	1.6	50.2
107½	81½	6.40	Hydro-Dynamic	95½	...	4.8	10.9
172½	57	19.60	IES	78½	– 3½	1.3	...
206½	134½	9.84	I S Solutions	205	...	...	69.4
247½	55½	42.70	Indpt Energy	240	...	...	...
133½	83½	12.50	Indpt Radio	70	+ 3½	...	...
225	141½	56.00	Infobank Intl	224	+ 4	...	...
84½	42½	17.80	Inner Workings	84½	...	...	...
125	102½	3.25	Integrd As Mgt	125	...	...	...
82½	17½	9.52	Intelligent Env	40½	+ ½	...	...
8	5	15.20	Int Tool & Sup	6¾	...	...	...
110	37½	26.20	Internet Tech	64½	+ 12	...	...
457½	222½	53.50	Intl Greetings	405	– 10	2.2	14.5
179½	58½	39.50	IOC Intl	156½	+ 7½	...	...
237½	150½	10.40	ITG Group	237½	+ 5	...	...
155½	43½	3.92	Jardinerie Ints	44½	...	...	...
205½	62½	8.38	Jasmin	204½	+ 1	...	11.7
405	290	30.00	Jennings Bros	405	+ 7½	2.4	31.2
4¼	3	5.19	J Lewis Hford	3¾	– ¼	3.6	15.0
62½	40	9.27	Jordec	54½	+ 2	...	18.1
40	17½	3.74	Jumbo Intl	26½	– 2	...	...
5¼	1¼	3.02	Just Group	1½	– ½	...	...
265½	91½	110.90	KS Biomedix	261½	+ 1½	...	...
50½	37½	4.31	Kern River	37½	...	...	...
78	47½	6.10	Keystone Soft	54½	+ 2	...	...
35	17¾		Keystone Wts	20½	...	...	...
199½	158½	15.40	Kingfisher Ls	158½	...	1.6	14.0
176½	118½	7.41	Lady in Leisure	176½	+ 8	...	...
159½	92½	6.95	Landround	154½	...	2.7	18.7
132½	15½	7.04	La Senza	21	+ ½	...	...
150	81½	22.00	Enterprises	81½	– 6	6.7	...
427½	340	29.20	Lawrence	417½	– 2½	2.4	16.0
4050	3150	77.00	Lawrie Group	4050	...	2.3	10.6
99½	76½	6.29	Lepco	85	– 2½	...	33.5
540	326	89.60	Le Riches Strs	540	...	4.9	17.2
535	480	9.90	Loades	495	...	0.3	14.3
106½	24½	10.20	Loftus Road	25½	+ ½	...	...
12¾	4¾	2.31	Lon & Edin Publ	7¼	– ¼	...	...
110	65	2.75	London Town	110	+ 23	3.0	9.7
189½	112½	5.82	Longbridge Intl	176½	+ 3	1.4	24.6
144½	137½	4.95	Longmead	137½	– 3	4.6	9.4
87½	35½	6.38	Loot	27½	...	...	...
3¾	1¼	3.03	Lotteryking	1¾	...	...	49.6
1	0½	0.09	Lotteryking Wts	0½	...	...	...
88	28½	3.72	MMS Petroleum	30½	+ ½	...	...
27½	6	11.90	Magnum Power	18¾	+ 10¾	...	...
447½	239½	51.70	Majestic Wine	395	– 10	1.1	28.0
19½	5½	3.90	Manx & O'seas	6½	+ 1	...	...
57½	52½	7.77	Market Link Pb	52½	...	...	11.1
169½	95½	44.70	Marlborough Intl	169½	...	...	30.7
125	100	2.62	Matrix Hlthcare	114	...	6.6	19.6
13¼	10¼	4.36	Mears Group	11¾	...	3.2	10.8
27½	13½	39.30	Medisys	23½	– 1	...	...
98½	53½	33.00	Megalomedia	53½	– 5½	0.5	25.4
93½	43½	0.49	Megalomedia Wts	45	– 5½	...	...
67½	39½	2.80	Meltek	40	...	7.8	29.5
65	22½	20.90	Memory Corp	30	...	...	...
99½	60½	60.50	Metalcrescia	60½	...	...	...
71½	46	5.14	Methven's	60½	+ 2	...	...
25	11	3.99	Metrodome	11	...	...	...
85½	45½	29.60	Microplanet	75	...	...	...
84½	57½	4.85	Mondas	79½	+ 2	...	...
350	200	35.60	Moorepay	330	+ 5	1.8	...
126½	67½	5.32	Mountcashel	70	...	...	...
215	35	7.97	Mulberry Group	38½	– 19	4.9	7.8
40	2	1.55	MultiMedia	2½	...	...	...
21	14¾	1.13	NECA	15¼	...	4.2	...
54½	44½	20.20	NMT	51½	+ 1½	...	...
72½	52½	2.02	NRP	69½	...	2.2	...
241½	140	23.40	NSB Retail Sys	241½	+ 56½	0.6	...
285	185	14.60	NWF Grp	185	...	5.6	9.8
220	155	13.90	Nash (Tim)	190	...	5.0	6.7
300	260	7.28	Neill Clerk	260	...	1.8	...
85½	45½	8.23	Netcall	54½	...	...	...
80½	75	1.52	Norbones	80	...	...	24.8
50½	17½	3.79	Nthn Petlm	20½	...	...	...
63½	28½	4.00	Northstar Sec	63½	+ 4	...	...
38½	3	0.77	Northstar Sec Wts	38½	+ 3	...	...
146½	112½	104.60	Nursing Home	146½	...	5.7	23.3
10½	0¾	0.58	Omnimedia	1½	...	...	...
97½	27½	0.99	On Line	30	– ½	...	6.6
190	137½	16.50	Optoplast	190	+ 10	2.0	13.4
85½	11½	9.40	Oxford Biomedica	16½	+ 4	...	...
3¾	0½	10.10	Pacific Media	0¾	...	...	...
69½	25	16.60	Pan Andean Res	35	– 1½	...	...
245	220	5.64	Park Ests(Lw)	235	...	4.8	23.0
23¾	13	7.44	Pembertons	15½	...	...	...
57½	29	6.67	Personal No Co	43	– ½	...	...
152½	38½	29.30	Petra Diamonds	87½	...	...	...
117½	13½	1.03	Petra Dmnds Wt	60	...	...	...
137½	14½	15.20	Philippine Gd	22½	– 1	...	...
70½	47½	13.40	Pilat Tech	62½	– 10	...	13.7
138½	97½	23.50	Polymasc Pharms	117½	...	...	...
2¾	0¾	1.64	Pordum Foods	0¾	– ½	...	22.5
1½	0½	0.16	Pordum Fds Wts	0¾	...	...	...
21½	12	11.30	Premier Asset Mgt	13	...	...	...
6	4¼	125.20	Prestbury Group	5¾	...	0.7	23.2
590	445	8.90	Preston Nth E	445	...	...	68.1
104½	92	15.60	Primary Hlth Pr	97½	+ 2½	6.9	20.9
590	280	88.80	Prism Rail	355	...	3.2	...
95½	56½	14.00	Pycall & Arnold	90	...	...	14.4
127½	52½	12.90	Q Group	77½	...	...	56.6
1265	695	222.00	Ramco Egy	735	– 5	0.2	...
9	6	9.38	Range Cooker	7½	...	...	6.7
110½	77½	12.00	Raphael Zrn	80½	– 2	3.9	9.5
110½	77½	12.00	Raphael Zrn	80½	– 2	3.9	9.5
127½	62½	10.10	Recycling Servs	62½	...	1.0	28.1
125	7½	1.24	Reflec	10	– ½	...	...
7¼	4¼	5.57	Revelation Plc	6	...	2.1	7.1
45	16½	12.00	Ricarran Insce	18¼	...	...	17.4
105½	74½	5.33	Romlec	102½	...	1.8	22.0
282½	105½	20.10	SBS	282½	+ 32½	1.1	37.2
182½	145½	17.00	SCI Ent	145½	...	...	13.6
42½	4½	1.12	SEA Multimedia	4½	...	...	...
75½	55½	5.69	Sanbury Music	57½	– 5	...	5.1
117½	104½	5.76	Savoy Asset Mgt	117½	...	4.3	14.5
212½	139½	36.10	Science Sys	212½	+ 3	0.9	31.4
12½	5½	0.95	Scotswood Inds	9	...	...	...
6	2	4.60	Screen	2¾	– ½	...	9.3
350	230	14.60	Scrutons	305	...	5.3	57.8
82	42½	8.29	Selector	42½	...	...	...
185½	154½	13.20	Shalibane	185½	...	3.0	15.4
185½	154½	13.20	Shalibane	185½	...	3.0	15.4
104½	69½	3.71	Shelton (M)	70	...	7.6	14.7
47½	12½	98.90	Sibir Energy	22	– 4½	...	...
4½	2¾	9.55	Sira Bus Serv	4¼	+ ¼	1.8	16.1
1½	1	0.24	Sira Bus Wts	1¼	...	...	...
3¾	0¾	5.05	Snakeboard	0¾	– ¼	...	...
84½	42½	3.31	Solid State Sp	52½	...	7.1	19.0
222½	152½	10.20	Solitaire	222½	...	3.4	16.5
34½	14½	1.87	Soundtracs	18½	+ 4	2.7	...
6½	2¾	5.35	South Beach Cafe	3	...	...	...
810	619½	196.80	Southern News	810	+ 54	3.3	15.7
94½	65½	18.30	Southern Vectis	92½	...	2.8	14.3
417½	173½	41.60	Stallware	343½	– 31½	0.7	...
635	77	24.90	Stanford Rook	129	– 1	...	...
177½	102½	19.70	Stentor	168½	+ 3	...	...
70	37		Stentor Warrants	61½	...	...	...
149½	77½	23.30	Style Hldgs	147½	– 1	1.3	18.1
155	127	14.30	Sutton Harbour	143½	...	3.0	19.4
22	5	1.11	Syst Integ Rsch	8¼	+ ¼	...	...
23	14	3.80	TDS Circuits	18	+ 1	...	6.7
97½	20½	3.32	Theo Fennell	20½	– 3½	...	9.2
97½	20½	3.32	Theo Fennell	20½	– 3½	...	9.2
14	5	9.90	Thomas Potts	5½	– ¼	3.6	41.4
37½	22½	3.04	Tom Hoskins	29½	...	...	...
158½	80	18.30	Total Office	113½	...	4.7	...
675	375	29.50	TRACKER Netwk	557½	– 12½	...	35.8
150	40	11.60	Tradepoint Fcl	40	– 7	...	...
167	140	6.00	Trinity Care	150	+ 5	4.2	42.6
170	155	1.37	Trinity Care Pf	155	...	6.0	...
60½	14¾	94.30	Trocadero	18½	+ 1	...	...
40	38	3.46	Univent	38	...	...	...
40	38	3.46	Univent	38	...	...	...
397½	287½	5.26	Utd Auctions	292½	...	3.8	4.2
280	130	21.70	VDC	207	– 1¾	3.1	16.7
53	29½	93.00	Victory Corp	29½	– 1½	...	...
53	29½	93.00	Victory Corp	29½	– 1½	...	...
242½	19	0.92	Viewinn	20½	...	...	...
240	155	4.34	Voss Net	155	– 5	...	...
88½	49¾	29.50	Waterfall	84½	...	...	17.9
88½	49¾	29.50	Waterfall	84½	...	...	17.9
35½	27	6.65	Watermark	35	+ 1	2.9	11.6
7	4½	6.03	Weeks Group	4½	...	2.9	8.2
115	60	2.70	West 175 Enter	60	...	...	...
£280	£125	10.60	West Bromwich	£145	...	...	...
13½	10½	5.62	Western Selectn	13	...	...	32.0
4½	4½	0.28	Western Sel Wts	4½	...	...	...
176½	44½	18.30	Westmount Engy	163½	– 8	...	...
95½	80½	4.58	Whitecross	95½	+ 1	...	...
103½	45½	7.75	Winchester	63	+ ½	...	...
197	152	41.40	World Telecom	190	+ 3	...	...
135	120	4.32	Wynnstay Props	135	...	4.6	14.0
12	5½	3.60	Xavier Comp	6	...	...	5.3
157½	83½	4.01	Yeoman	83½	...	...	...
300	215	22.80	Zergo	247½	+ 5	...	...
29½	4	1.15	Zicor Mining	5	...	...	...



What next for National Insurance?



ROGER BOOTLE

"I turn now to National Insurance". That is the point in the Budget speech when even the most hardened listeners switch off. It is as though the subject belongs with other arcane matters such as the landfill tax or the excise duty on perry. Yet National Insurance raises some £50 billion a year — the same as VAT — and it lies right at the heart of the welfare state. What Mr Brown does with it tomorrow week will tell us a good deal about his attitude to welfare reform.

What on earth does National Insurance have to do with insurance? The basic idea is simple enough. The social benefits that the state provides are related to contributions. These are a combination of insurance premium against the chances of sickness and unemployment, and compulsory saving to furnish a pension in retirement. The state's role is to provide co-ordination and compulsion, without which people might not be willing to make adequate provision for themselves. There is also an element of redistribution of income, for the system gives equal treatment for those who might not otherwise be able to secure adequate insurance.

The redistributive aspect apparently goes further, since employers are also obliged to pay their "stamp". But in practice, since this raises the cost of employment, the effect is surely to reduce the wage paid to employees, or the amount of employment, or both. So it is the worker who pays in the end.

This insurance approach to welfare has some things to recommend it. But although insurance was the principle upon which the welfare state was founded, it is not the philosophy that has underpinned its recent development. That role is taken by the concept of "need", or entitlement through meeting some criterion which suggests need. To be eligible for child benefit, for instance, you simply have to have a child.

Moreover, the non-contributory part of the welfare state is dominant. You may not qualify for unemployment benefit ("Jobseekers' Allowance") because you have not paid enough contributions, but the welfare state will not allow you to starve or become homeless for this reason. Other non-contributory benefits will swing into action.

Meanwhile, the contributory benefits are not quite what they were expected to be. Because it governs eligibility for the state pension, having a full contributions record will make some difference to your income in retirement. But for many people the difference will be marginal. At the lower end of the income scale, again the non-contributory welfare state comes into play. Further up the income scale, the pension provided by the state is dwarfed by those provided privately.

Furthermore, how the system works and the precise linkages between contributions and future prospective benefits are a closed book to most people. Contracted in or out? Class 2 or Class 4 contributions? You tell me. It is a minefield. Surely, though, if people are to derive comfort and security from their insurance, the bare minimum is that they should know what they are insured against and to what extent. Just about all they know is that the prospective benefits are pretty small.

It is tempting to think that any deficiencies in the retirement pension or other benefits arise from lack of money in the National Insurance Fund, but this would be quite mistaken. Such a fund exists, but it is a mere accounting device to channel current contributions into current benefits. It has no real significance. The level of benefits is decided by the Chancellor regardless of how much money is in the "fund". If it is short, he merely tops it up from general taxation. In other words, National Insurance is functioning as a quasi-tax.

Ironically, new thinking on welfare focuses on the concepts of contributions and funds, but outside the National Insurance framework. The Government's own proposals on "stakeholder pensions" envisage contributions being paid into a real investment fund, with the eventual benefits dependent upon investment performance.

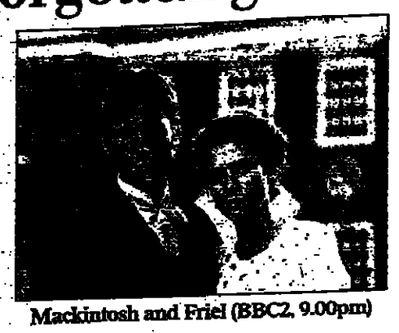
So what should Mr Brown do with National Insurance? The first thing is to address some of the anomalies in its structure. At present, contributions are payable by both employees and employers on weekly earnings of £62, and the rate rises in a series of jumps. There is a definite incentive to remain outside National Insurance, especially for small firms anxious to avoid the administrative hassle. This probably deters some small businesses from hiring at all, and encourages others to keep pay for part-timers just below £62 per week, or £3,224 a year.

Meanwhile, income tax is not payable until a person earns £4,045. It would make sense to raise the starting point for National Insurance to coincide with income tax, which would mean raising the lower limit from £62 a week to £78, thereby helping the low-paid. Reportedly, the Chancellor is also thinking about raising the level of employer contributions for high earners, while reducing them for low earners, in a further attempt to improve the employment opportunities for the low paid.

This may be a laudable objective but it is redolent of old-style Labour tinkering. Whatever Mr Brown does to National Insurance should accord with two basic principles; it should make the system simpler and more transparent and it should fit in with a long-term plan for welfare overall, which probably involves closer alignment of National Insurance with income tax. The very words "National Insurance" conjure up a bygone era of Bismarckian state paternalism towards the lumpen proletariat. Like so much of the welfare system, has the idea of the state providing "insurance" had its day?

TELEVISION CHOICE

Champion of forgotten greats



Mackintosh and Friel (BBC2, 9.00pm)

Local Heroes
BBC2, 8.00pm

Not many people know that Cornelius Drebbel built the world's first submarine back in the 17th century, but Adam Hart-Davis does, and he jumps into a swimming pool to demonstrate on a contraption he has knocked up himself. It is not just the bike and luminous pink and yellow gear that marks out Hart-Davis from the average television presenter, but an almost manic enthusiasm for his subject. If his inventor heroes were able to return to this earth they would be the first to shake Hart-Davis by the hand and thank him. Drawing his inventors this week from London, Hart-Davis is equally good on established names such as Michael Faraday and Charles Babbage, the computer pioneer, as the lesser-known Paul Eisler to whom we owe the printed circuit board and the heated rear window in cars.

Our Mutual Friend
BBC2, 9.00pm

This is one of the least televised of Dickens's novels, which is surprising because its material translates so well to the screen. Sandy Welch's four-part adaptation gets off to an atmospheric start on the River Thames, where the discovery of a body provides the story with its central mystery. To this can be added such familiar Dickens ingredients as a gallery of sharply etched characters, a plot fuelled by accident and coincidence, concern with low life, as well as high, and a disputed inheritance. Welch's scenario cuts a clear path through a busy narrative and allows the large cast plenty to get its teeth into. Anna Friel, Keeley Hawes, Steven Mackintosh and Paul McGann play the main participants in the two love stories at the heart of the tale and there is relishable support from seasoned players such as Peter Vaughan, Pam Ferris, Timothy Spall and Kenneth Cranham.

To the Ends of the Earth
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The title of this series could not better fit the trip to the Arctic by two Britons, Steve Martin and Dave Mitchell. Their aim was to be first to cross the Arctic Ocean without any form of external support. For a projected 100 days they would drag their food and equipment on two sledges. Their radio contact in Scotland reckoned that their chances were one in a hundred, hardly a vote of confidence. One hazard was a Polar ice cap constantly on the move. Another was meeting a polar bear hungry for human flesh. Undaunted, the men set out from a former Soviet base in Siberia, aiming for the North Pole and then on to Canada. But progress is desperately slow, only 61 miles in 30 days. Canada is out and just getting to the North Pole means upping the rate to 389 miles in 60 days.

Pleasure Beach
BBC1, 9.30pm

The final visit to Blackpool picks on the fact, often surprising to outsiders, that the resort's busiest period is not the summer months but the autumn when the illuminations are switched on. It is good business for the Pleasure Beach and Keith Allen, standing in for his boss, the park manager Jim Rowland, thinks he can beat the record for the most takings in a day. But those who have followed the series will know that trouble is never far away and, sure enough, the awesome rollercoaster comes to an emergency halt 235ft above the ground. Rowland is not best pleased when he returns to find the place in darkness. Geoffrey Thompson, the owner of the Pleasure Beach, is hoping there will no such mishaps on the day he plays host to a perhaps unlikely visitor, his heroine, Baroness Thatcher. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Woman's Hour
Radio 4, 10.30am

This programme would not be one's first or second port of call in a trawl of the airwaves in search of Jack Nicholson but this is where the actor fetches up today, interviewed by Jenni Murray: it ought to be quite a contest. No preview tape was available but Nicholson has always been such good value that tuning in carries few risks. Nicholson is one of the great Hollywood actors as well as having been one of the great Hollywood hell-raisers. His latest film role, as an all-swearing sociopathic novelist in *As Good As It Gets*, sounds much more classic Nicholson than some of the comic-strip stuff he has done in recent years, but whatever his ups and downs Nicholson is a flesh-and-blood character in an age of processed actors.

Football Cities
Radio 5 Live, 9.30pm

An engaging series that has uncovered some of the fascinating tribalism that surrounds football, defying all economic reason. The presenter Jim White now crosses the border to tell the tale of two clubs that occupy grounds on different sides of the same street: Dundee and Dundee United. There are only 180,000 people in the town but apparently few would countenance a merger of the two clubs. Dundee FC are the older and they were top dog in the town for 60 years, but since the 1970s Dundee United have been the more successful. Does this mean fans have been crossing the street? Not likely, now or ever. Club loyalties are too deeply entrenched for mere success or failure to shift allegiances. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoë Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jayne Middlemiss. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 5.45 Newsbeat Worldwide events 6.30 Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session. The Bluetones play live in front of a specially invited audience 8.30 Trade Update with Clare McDonnell 9.40 Andy Kershaw 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Clive Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Malcolm Laycock 9.00 Big Band Special 9.30 Hayes Over Britain 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Annie Othen

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 Midday with Mair 2.00pm Ruscoe on Five 4.00 Nationwide with Julian Worricker 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Monday Match. Action from tonight's Scottish Cup quarter-finals 9.30 Football Cities: Dundee. See Choice 10.00 News Talk 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark 7.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show 10.00 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Robin Banks 7.00 (FM) Lynn Parsons (AM) Ray Cokes 10.00 Calmin Jones 2.00am Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Kirsty Young with Bill Overton 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Deeley 7.00 Anna Raeburn 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins 5.00 The Early Show

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf: Air and Angels 7.30 The Vintage Chart Show 8.00 News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 International Question Time 9.00 News; News in German (648 only) 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 First on the Scene 9.30 Westway Access 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Omnibus 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Jazzamatazz 12.00 News 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Seven Days 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 What's News 2.45 The Lab 3.00 World News; (648 only) News in German 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 Westway Access 3.30 World Ranking 4.00 News 4.15 Seven Days 4.30 Insight; (648 only) News in German 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Counterpoint; News in German (648 only) 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pause for Thought 7.30 Multitrack Hit List 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Braving the Deeps 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Insight 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 Multitrack Hit List 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am Westway 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Just a Taste 2.00 Newsday 2.30 On Screen 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Civilization 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Europe Today 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Breakfast with Bailey 8.00 Henry Kelly. Includes Record of the Week and a chance to hear Michael Barry's recipe for sag dhall 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents listeners' favourite music 2.00pm Concerto. Robert Schumann (Cello Concerto in A minor) 3.00 Jamie Crick. Includes Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance 6.30 Newsnight 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven with John Brunning 9.00 Evening Concert: Schumann (Violin Concerto in D minor); Brahms (Piano Trio No 3 in C minor); Max Bruch (Concerto in E minor for Clarinet and Viola); Schumann (Symphony No 4 in D minor) 11.00 Mann at Night 2.00am Concerto (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am **On Air**, with Stephanie Hughes. Beethoven (Sextet in E flat); Dunstaple (Missa Rex Seculorum; Gloria); Grainger (Irish Tune from Country Derry); Grieg (Two Melodies); Handel (Tune Your Harps To Cheerful Strains, Esther); Rossini (Overture Semiramide)
9.00 **Masterworks**, with Penny Gore. Includes Mozart (Symphony No 11 in D); Schubert (Rondo in A); Rimsky-Korsakov (Symphony No 1 in E minor); Schubert (Marche Militaire in D); Fauré (Suite Masques et Bergamasques); Mozart (Symphony No 12 in G)
10.30 **Artist of the Week: Ileana Cotrubas.** Joan Bakewell talks to the soprano about her early years growing up in Romania and the immense pleasure she finds in the arts, dancing, singing and even Hollywood films
11.00 **Sound Stories: Great Victorians.** A profile of the virtuoso of dance music and flamboyant showman, Louis Jullien (1/5)
12.00 **Composers of the Week: Edward MacDowell and Howard Hanson.** Introduced by Bill Lloyd
1.00pm **The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.** Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Nelson Goerner, piano. Mozart (Piano Sonata in D); Chopin (Three Mazurkas; Twelve Etudes)
2.00 **The BBC Orchestras.** BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Ingo Metzmacher and Tadaaki Otaka, with Peter Donohoe, piano. Debussy (Prélude à l'Après-Midi d'un Faune); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 4 in G); Messiaen (Oiseaux Exotiques); Miaskovsky (Symphony No 13); Stravinsky (Suite: The Firebird, 1945)
4.00 **Music Matters**, with Ivan Hewett (r).
4.45 **Music Machine**, with Tommy Pearson
5.00 **In Tune.** Sean Rafferty's guests include Kevin Anderson who will be introducing The Irish Songbook with live performances of poetry and music
7.30 **Performance on 3.** Fiona Talkington introduces the London Sinfonietta under Martyn Brabbins. Brian Ferneyhough (Transit); Steve Reich (Music for 18 Instruments)
9.20 **Postscript: Shared Visions.** Brian Morton examines five complex artistic partnerships beginning with David Lean and Freddie Young, the pair behind the screen classics *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Doctor Zhivago* and *Ryan's Daughter*
9.45 **Visions of Handel.** Misha Maisky, cello; Martha Argerich, piano. Beethoven (Variations on See the Conqu'ring Hero Comes)
10.00 **Voices: Verdi Songs.** Dennis O'Neill, tenor; Ingrid Surgenor, piano. Verdi (Ave Maria; In Solitaria Stanza; Nell Orror di Notte Oscura; More, Elisa, Lo Stanco Poete; Non t'accostare all'urna; Stornello, Il Tramonto; Ad Una Stella; Il Mistero, Lo Spazzacamino)
10.45 **Mixing It.** A blend of musical styles and influences introduced by Mark Russell and Robert Sandall
11.30 **Composer of the Week: Michael Tippett** (r)
12.30am **Jazz Notes.** Digby Fairweather presents a 90th-birthday salute to the trumpeter Nat Gonella
1.00 **Through the Night**, with Donald Macleod.

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) **Shipping Forecast** 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.40 An Intimate History of Conversation 8.58 Weather
9.00 **News** 9.05 **Start the Week.** The *Times* columnist Melvyn Bragg is joined by Linda Colley and the biographer Peter Ackroyd
10.00 (FM) **News; Shiva's Wedding.** Ruchira Gupta explores the roles of gods in Indian life (1/2)
10.00 (LW) **Daily Service**
10.15 (LW) **On These Days**, with Hunter Davies
10.30 **Woman's Hour.** Jenni Murray talks to the Oscar-winning actor Jack Nicholson about his new film, *As Good as It Gets*. See Choice
11.30 **Money Box Live**, with Vincent Duggleby
12.00 **News; You and Yours**, with John Waite
12.25pm **Counterpoint.** The first semi-final of the general knowledge music quiz hosted by Ned Sherrin 12.55 Weather
1.00 **The World at One.** Presented by Nick Clarke
1.40 **The Archers** (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 **News; An Oscar for Janice**, by Janet George. A theatre-mad supermarket assistant becomes disillusioned when she gets a job in a theatre. With Julie Riley
3.00 **News; The Afternoon Shift**, with Laurie Taylor
4.00 **News** 4.05 **Kaleidoscope.** Lynne Walker reads Stephen Johnson's biography of Anton Bruckner and talks to Bryn Terfel about the National Film Theatre's season of Rodgers and Hammerstein films
4.45 **Short Story: A Very Bad Thing.** Bill Paterson reads his own reminiscence of a boyhood adventure
5.00 **PM** Presented by Clare English and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** 6.30 **The News Quiz.** Simon Hoggart quizzes Jerry Hayes and other guests on the week's events (r)
7.00 **News** 7.05 **The Archers**
7.20 **The Food Programme.** Derek Cooper examines the effects of dwindling fish stocks (r)
7.45 **The Monday Play: Heaven's Walk**, by Richard Cameron. An evocative play about a man's search for meaning in his life. With Philip Jackson and Anne Carroll
9.00 **Grandmothers' Footsteps** (2/2) (r)
9.30 **Kaleidoscope** (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 **The World Tonight**, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 **Book at Bedtime: Colomba**, Prosper Mérimée's story, translated by Nicholas Jotcham, abridged by Ruth Petrie and read by Mark Straker (1/7)
11.00 (FM) **Reinventing God.** Charles Handy visits Los Angeles in his search for purpose (4/6)
11.00 (LW) **Education Matters.** Mike Baker presents a guide to news and views in the learning world
11.30 (LW) **Today in Parliament**
11.30 (FM) **Sweet Blood.** The final part of Elizabeth Baines's drama. With Rebecca Callard and Con O'Neill
12.00 **News** 12.30am **The Late Book: Bogart** A.M. Sperber and Eric Lax's biography of the Hollywood legend. Read by Paul Birchard (1/5) (r)
12.48 **Shipping Forecast** 1.00 **As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-6.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

BBC TELEVISION



Two Fat Ladies provided a recipe for success on US television

Bigger can mean better in spurring economic growth

Size matters as retailers and other US businesses are finding, says Ian Brodie

Despite a relentless barrage of diets, sugar-free drinks, fat-free foods and exercise regimens, the average American woman turning 50 today weighs eight pounds more than her mother did at the same age.

Retailers and a variety of other businesses are belatedly waking up to the potential for profit from the thickening of American waistlines.

In response to a deluge of requests, Lands End, the catalogue group, has just introduced a broad selection of clothes in expanded sizes for fuller-figured women. The new offerings include 45 of the company's most popular casual styles, including jeans, sweaters, T-shirts, blouses, shorts and sleepwear. So far, the items are not in the firm's British catalogue, but may be eventually.

Lands End discovered that half of all American women wear a size 14 — equivalent to a British size 16 — or larger, making the plus-size business worth $23 billion (£14 billion) a year. Yet while demand is on the rise, the clothing industry has been slow to respond with garments that fit well and make stylish use of quality fabrics. Lands End market research found larger women were desperately searching for clothes that did not make them look matronly. Focus groups across the country expressed frustration with being under-served by retailers and catalogue firms.

From the moment the bigger clothes were launched, Tracy Gardner, merchandise manager at Lands End in Dodgeville, Wisconsin, has been receiving about 30 e-mails a day from women saying how pleased they are. "I've never experienced a customer response like it," she said.

Wall Street has just seen another indication that bigger means more rewarding. At the end of February, Pinault-Printemps-Redoute, the large French retail group, spent $355 million for 40 per cent of Brylane Inc, an American catalogue firm that already has the largest stake in selling clothes to outsize men and women. Catalogue companies, along with television shopping channels, have an advantage in selling to large women who are too embarrassed to go into shops.

Brylane's sales reached a record $1.4 billion last year, with an operating income of about 9 per cent. Almost 40 per cent of the business was in bigger styles and a third of that was in extra large sizes ranging from 28 all the way up to a 60. Their biggest size for men has a 28-inch neck and a 72-inch waist.

For reasons of political correctness, Brylane no longer boasts of having "everything for the stout woman", but the firm is unlike others in having years of experience in selling large sizes. Nearly 100 years ago, its founder, Lena Bryant, invented the first mass-produced maternity dress. Until then, pregnant women had to make their own or go to a dressmaker.

Many department stores have been slow to capitalise on the latest trend, but one chain that has, Saks Fifth Avenue, reports that sales for its upscale range of larger apparel known as Salon Z are outpacing the rest of the company's growth.

Small wonder when one considers that a great wodge of President Clinton's fellow baby-boomers, some 65 million Americans, are entering their fifties and beginning to look back with envy at photos of their formerly slim selves taken 20 years ago or even less.

Wendy Liebmann, a New York retail consultant and head of WSL Marketing, says there is an increasing disconnection between the perception of a youthful American ethos of slender bodies and the reality of tremendous numbers, especially women, being significantly overweight.

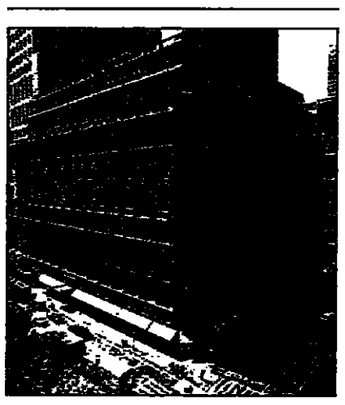
In putting on the pounds, the average American woman has added one and a quarter inches around the hips in the past ten years. Several reasons are given — far more junk food is available now, people drive more and walk less, and there have been no lean years to match the Depression and the Second World War. Making money from America's weight gain is not confined to outsize clothing. Publishers are cashing in, too. *Mode*, the magazine aimed at middle-age spread, has a circulation approaching 400,000 after only a year. An array of new books urges women not to surrender self-esteem because of their weight. Among the titles: *When Women Stop Hating Their Bodies*, *Nothing to Lose*, *Making Peace with Food* and *Life in the Fat Lane*.

Really large Americans, those weighing 20 stone or more, do not shy away from the word fat. Increasingly, though, they do ask for respect. The National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance, based in California, lobbies against size discrimination in jobs and housing. Sally Smith, executive director, who weighs 25 stone, said: "Being fat is not a character flaw. It's largely genetic. And we do have money to spend."

An assortment of money-making cottage industries caters for them, especially on the West Coast. Cynthia Riggs, owner of Making It Big, a clothing firm, has 25 employees and annual sales of $2 million. The company is growing at the rate of 20 per cent a year. She said: "People are beginning to realise it's an untapped market." A health club south of San Francisco known as Women of Substance has been so successful that there are plans to franchise it elsewhere. Tour group holidays are popular among the excessively fat, who often lead isolated lives. A firm in Toronto has a line of office chairs designed to withstand the strain of obese workers. Weight-loss plans ought to do well, but many outsize women avoid them, claiming to have been victims of yo-yo dieting as teenagers.

Fat acceptance seems to be spreading, even while a slimmed-down Duchess of York continues to endorse the merits of Weight Watchers in print and television advertising. The BBC's *Two Fat Ladies* has won a fanatical following since it started on the Food Network last September. Its stars, Jennifer Paterson and Clarissa Dickson Wright, sold 2,000 copies of their cookbook in ten minutes when they appeared on a home-shopping channel.

Then there is New Orleans, identified by the Government's Centres for Disease Control as having the fattest people in America. In a city renowned for letting the good times roll, many citizens exult in their reputation for gluttony and for indulging in a cuisine dedicated to rich food. There is, however, a down side to their excess. They have the shortest average lifespan in America — 64 for men, three years less than in North Korea.



Saks Fifth Avenue reports that sales for its upscale range of larger apparel, known as Salon Z, are outpacing the rest of the company's growth

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Why not change the way we work?

Infatuated man, lost and at risk in the dark

REVIEW

Paul Hoggart

Andrew Davies's **Getting Hurt** opened BBC2's *Obsessions* season last night. You need a very meaty drama to sustain an hour and three quarters, but this disturbing psychological thriller pulled it off pretty well.

It was odd that we Brits should build an early Manhattan skyscraper in 1980s Docklands. It is equally odd to want to make a film noir in the 1990s, and at times it did feel like an elaborate film-school style exercise. There was the moody opening shot through the tenement window of the unshaven hero-narrator, sitting miserably in a vest and a whisky fug. There was the lugubrious jazz and voiceover, lots of dramatic chiaroscuro and unsettling camera angles.

This was really one of those male menopause stories, usually written, I suspect, by menopausal males, in which a respectable, middle-aged family man is seduced by a beautiful woman young enough to be his daughter's nanny. This spare-tyre fantasy is accompanied by the spare-tyre nightmare, for his transgression must be punished, and, like him, it all goes pear-shaped.

In this case honest solicitor Charlie Cross (Ciaran Hinds) is aroused from suburban slumber by a call to represent Edgar Bosco (Nicholas Hope), an unsavoury Czech photographer suspected of murdering prostitutes. Charlie becomes obsessed with Bosco's Lithuanian wife Viola (Amanda Ooms — an unusual surname, but better than Cake).

In fact, "Ooms" could be an onomatopoeic term for the hormonal surges Charlie experiences in Viola's presence, for he spends the rest of the play enthralled by her sultry, boyish sensuality. He can't control his fantasies (conveniently signalled by black-and-white footage), nearly crashes his Merc and does mad, impulsive things such as making love on a new mattress without first removing the plastic cover. Ugh.

Short, arrogant, sleazy and psychologically manipulative, Bosco is a compellingly reptilian villain, although he turns out to be more ambiguous (and less evil) than we expect. He even drives one of those odd-looking old Saabs in a nasty shade of green. Like the whole drama, he oozes moral ambiguity. Bosco likes to photograph nude female corpses, and his other "art" shots are sinister and exploitative.

But Charlie's wife, Helen, (powerfully played by Ingrid Lacey, the lesbian producer in *Drop the Dead Donkey*) works at a Soho gallery where the respectable art works have a questionable edge. Charlie's clients are compromised: a crooked property speculator and a paraplegic in a sexually messy divorce case.

After a while I found the enigmatic philosophising a little wearing. Bosco and Viola kept answering the question "Are you guilty?" with the question "Aren't we all?" To which the proper answer is: "Speak for yourself, ducky," or words to that effect.

Charlie certainly was guilty, though. He represents a man he believes (wrongly) to be guilty of murder, runs off with the man's wife, betrays his secrets to the police and actively seeks to undermine his defence. In the penultimate confrontation he nearly kills him. "Strangle your client, eh?" says the splendidly weasel-faced detective. "I've met some dodgy solicitors, but you take the f***ing biscuit." You can see his point.

There was lots of not-quite-gratuitous sex. "I feel like someone coming back from the dead," said Charlie after the first bout, which was just as well, because he was gasping so much I thought he was about to join them. Other powerful moments included Bosco's chilling photographic seduction of Charlie's teenage daughter, Clare.

At times it felt like a Jacobean revenge tragedy in a modern bourgeois setting, and the tension and uncertainty were sustained until he end. This looked as if it was about to turn into a *Straw Dogs*-style, house-under-siege-by-psychopath bloodbath, but again the plot swerved in a peculiar and morally uncertain direction.

Liberal use was made in *Getting Hurt* of intense, meaningful close-ups, where you search each character's face for flickers of meaning. One of my most enjoyable moments this weekend was flipping onto **Citizen Caine** (BBC1, Saturday) to catch Michael Caine giving a film-acting masterclass. At first I didn't know what was going on until I realised that he had imperceptibly twitched one eyelid. "Now *that's* a big gesture," he explained. Not a lot of people know that.

Ambiguity abounded in **The Entertainment Biz: Entertaining Emotions** series (BBC2, last night), which went behind the scenes at American talk shows. Focusing on Ricki Lake and Jerry Springer, this was a sharp documentary, combining fly-on-the-wall with a strong line of debate.

Talk show participants and studio audiences alike are ruthlessly manipulated to produce a sequence of emotional melodramas timed to fit the commercial breaks. The people who are prepared to subject themselves to this form of slick, cynical abuse have to be desperate, naive or stupid, but Gail Steinberg, executive producer for Lake, had the gall to accuse anyone who points this out of being "elitist".

"Talk shows have become the community of the Nineties," she flannelled. "If this is the substitute for close relationships, we are in deep trouble," retorted the critic Jeanne Heaton. "It's always nice to see people in pain," said a fat woman in an audience queue. Quite.

Springer proved himself a lively, witty performer, who sings funny songs and makes jokes at his own expense. Which makes what he is doing even more despicable.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (13606)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (83880)
9.00 Style Challenge (7840921)
9.25 Change That (4890606)
9.50 Kilroy (T) (3268170)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (6572967)
10.55 The Really Useful Show (T) (1995489)
11.35 Real Rooms A lounge (1396809)
12.00 News (T) and weather (8729809)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (5370064)
12.35 Wipeout (2212248)
1.00 News (T) and weather (93267)
1.30 Regional News (T) (54992248)
1.40 The Weather Show (66280847)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (72152118)
2.10 Ironside (r) (3345737)
3.00 Lion Country (2644)
3.30 Playdays (7209880) **3.50** The Enchanted Lands (7579557) **4.00** Bodger and Badger (1423828) **4.15** Fudge (1169977) **4.35** Record Breakers Gold (5041267) **5.00** Newsround (T) (9369606) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (7116737)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (439151)
6.00 News (T) and weather (593)
6.30 Regional News (T) (335)
7.00 Telly Addicts (T) (4625)
7.30 Here and Now Chris Choi concludes his investigation into the antiques trade. Plus: a report on the growing pressures facing rising football stars (T) (847)
8.00 EastEnders Mary plans to celebrate her 18th birthday in style (T) (3373)
8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart A bomb blast sends Gary's world into turmoil (T) (2880)
9.00 News (T) and weather (2002)
9.30 Pleasure Beach The staff brace themselves for Blackpool's annual illuminations. Last in series (T) (25793)
10.00 Panorama: Children on the Cheap The standard of nursery care currently available to working parents comes under scrutiny (T) (931489)
10.40 On Side John Inverdale returns with a new series of sports banter, with guests Paul Merson, Ashia Hansen, Joe Frazier and Ilie Nastase. Plus, a report on Marvin Hagler's surprising career-move (506977) **WALES: 10.40** Players, Fighters and Writers (197680) **11.10** On Side (126915) **11.55** Film '98 (968335) **12.25am** FILM: The Seven Per Cent Solution (681652) **2.15** News (4589132) **2.20** BBC News 24
11.25 Film '98 with Barry Norman Ralph Fiennes discusses his role in *Oscar and Lucinda*; reviews of *As Good As It Gets*, with Jack Nicholson; *The Man in the Iron Mask*, with Leonardo DiCaprio; Robert De Niro in *Wag the Dog* and *Fallen*, with Denzel Washington and John Goodman; *Gattaca*, with Uma Thurman (T) (555625)
11.55 The Seven Per Cent Solution *(1976)* All-star spoof, with Nicol Williamson. *Sherlock Holmes is lured to Vienna, where Sigmund Freud tries to cure his cocaine addiction. Directed by Herbert Ross* (616996)
1.40am Weather (2930519)
1.45 BBC News 24

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BBC2

6.10am Quality Care (3832422) **6.35** Babies' Minds (1820625)
7.00 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (7258286)
7.15 Teletubbies (r) (5288977) **7.40** The Wacky Races (r) (6856151) **8.00** Blue Peter (r) (T) (14199) **8.30** Charlie Chalk (r) (6625557) **8.45** Harry and the Hendersons (r) (T) (3294557)
9.10 German Globo (8169977) **9.15** Testament: The Bible in Animation (408002) **9.45** Storytime (9078809) **10.00** Teletubbies (r) (79199) **10.30** Words and Pictures (6298511) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (1248016) **11.00** Look and Read (7487606) **11.20** Zig Zag (9826422) **11.40** Landmarks (4067199) **12.00** Sportsbank Special: Dance (17286)
12.30pm Working Lunch (43199) **1.00** Oakie Doke (47116847) **1.10** *The Leisure Hour* (7776335) **2.10** Going, Going, Gone (22112460) **2.40** *News (T)* (9380996) **2.45** Kicking and Screaming (r) (T) (4463828) **3.25** *News* (T) **3.30** *How Does Your Garden Grow?* (441)
4.00 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (4078847) **4.25** Ready, Steady, Cook (4048606) **4.55** *Esther. Heated debate over media hounds who prey on people with a story, with guests including former Mirror Editor* David Banks (6148828) **5.30** Today's the Day (712)
6.00 The Simpsons Homer's destitute half-brother turns up on his doorstep wanting investment for a new project. Featuring the voice of Danny DeVito (T) (832422)
6.25 Battlestar Galactica (r) (T) (893199)
7.15 Radical Highs Comparison between speedskiing and telemark skiing (782967)
7.30 Compass: The Euro Cometh Experts on *European affairs, including Vice-President of the European Commission Sir Leon Brittan, debate the implications* of introducing the euro (489)



Presenter Adam Hart-Davis (8.00pm)

8.00 Local Heroes Adam Hart-*Davis pays tribute to London's* local heroes (T) (1915)
8.30 Ainsley's Meals in Minutes Mushroom risotto; chilli-cheese meatballs; ginger *chicken with coconut rice* (T) (2462)
9.00 Our Mutual Friend First of a new four-part dramatisation of Dickens's novel (T) (1373)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (508335)
11.15 The Net A guide to computer technology and the internet (400489)
11.55 Weather (391809) **12.00** The Midnight Hour (17687)
12.30am Learning Zone: Persisting Dreams (60403) **1.30** Copernicus and His World (39958) **2.00** Schools: PSHE (78039) **4.00** Languages: The New Get By in German (89381) **5.00** Skills for Work (99206652) ***5.45*** *Maarten Van* Heemskerck (4308774)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (4904354)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (r) (T) (2890426)
9.55 Regional News (5130151)
10.00 The Time, The Place (T) (66625)
10.30 This Morning (T) (41796118)
12.20pm HTV News and weather (8718793)
12.30 News (T) and weather (2231373)
12.55 BLT (2216064)
1.25 Home and Away (r) (T) (94662538)
1.50 BLT (72128151)
2.20 Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman (3584170)
3.20 News (T) (1847354)
3.25 Regional News and weather (1846625)
3.30 Rosie and Jim (5381593) **3.40** Teddybears (5674921) **3.50** The Animal Shelf (r) (7286129) **4.05** Sooty's Amazing Adventures (T) (4500052) **4.15** Snap (T) (651267) **4.45** Art Attack (T) (5065847)
5.10 Undercurrents (2007286)
5.40 News (T) and weather (438557)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (836248)
6.25 HTV Weather (477644)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (731)
6.56 HTV Crimestoppers (880354)
7.00 Wish You Were Here? Anthea Turner accompanies her father on a visit to Donegal in Ireland; Mary Nightingale sings the praises of a sailing trip around the Greek Islands; and Linda Lusardi ventures to the low-cost island of Koh Samui in Thailand (9793)
7.30 Coronation Street Ken is drawn into Jon's web of deceit; Curly and Hayley get a shock at Firmans (T) (915)
8.00 World in Action Examining some of the recent high-profile cases of domestic violence. Plus: a look at how domestic violence cases are being prosecuted in San Diego without the victim's involvement (T) (8441)



Justine Waddell as Tess (8.30pm)

8.30 Tess of the D'Urbervilles Part two of Thomas Hardy's tragic love story about the beautiful daughter of a farm worker. With Justine Waddell, Oliver Milburn and Jason Flemyng (T) (95083)
10.00 News at Ten (T) and weather (34511)
10.30 Regional News and weather (103286)
10.40 Fitz: Sons and Lovers Fitz believes a *man is innocent of the horrific murder of* his mother (T) (253248)
11.40 The Drew Carey Show Drew is accused of creating a hostile workplace (249712)
12.10am Millennium *Frank searches for a* depraved lone bomber (r) (T) (1072774)
1.00 Football Extra (4785855)
2.05 World Football (r) (6446403)
2.30 God's Gift (r) (T) (9631316)
3.25 The Time, The Place (r) (T) (50586300)
3.55 World in Action (r) (T) (90246126)
4.25 ITV Nightscreen (8952519)
5.30 News (32942)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (2216064)
1.50 Blue Heelers (9444354)
2.50-3.20 High Road (6815199)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2007286)
6.25-7.00 Central News (203660)
12.05am Millennium (5733403)
2.35 God's Gift (9630687)
3.30 The Time, the Place (19213)
4.00 World in Action (35044381)
4.25 Central Jobfinder '98 (8203652)
5.20 Asian Eye (1034132)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (8718793)
12.55 Home and Away (2216064)
1.25 High Road (31840426)
1.55 Murder, She Wrote (9452373)
2.50-3.20 Dig It with Den (6815199)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2007286)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (48644)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (2216064)
1.50 Wildlife SOS (4252625)
2.25 Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman (3754202)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2007286)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (151)
6.30-7.00 Country Ways (731)
5.00am Freescreen (79590)

ANGLIA

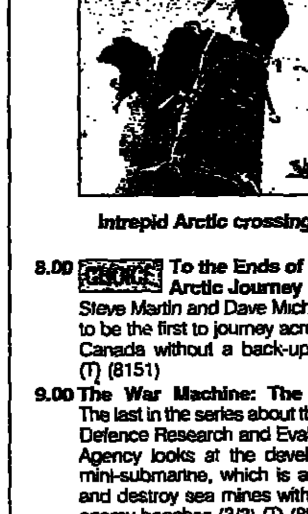
As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (8737828)
12.55-1.25 Surprise Chefs (2216064)
1.50 Dogs with Dunbar (4252625)
2.25 Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman (3754202)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2007286)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (203660)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (370828)

S4C

Starts: **7.00am The Big Breakfast** (16118)
9.00 Yagollon (601335)
11.30 Springhill (3977)
12.00pm Right to Reply (84034)
12.30 Sesame Street (38267)
1.00 Slot Meithrin (47192267)
1.15 Miffi (47180422)
1.30 FILM: Guns of Darkness (68761335)
3.25 Fresh Pop (1844267)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (809)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (644)
4.30 Countdown (828)
5.00 5 Pump (9024170)
5.15 Ffeil (9364151)
5.30 Mrs Cohen's Money (880)
6.00 Newyddion 6 (290422)
6.10 Heno (898644)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (770538)
7.25 Terminal 3 (975712)
8.00 John ac Alun (6083)
8.30 Newyddion (5118)
9.00 Y Byd Ar Bedwar (5712)
9.30 Sgorio (7715118)
10.35 Michael Hayes (264354)
11.30 The War Machine (81644)
12.30am Fortean TV (80045)
1.00 NBA 24/7 (7887720)
1.35 Diwedd (54672294)

CHANNEL 4

7.00am The Big Breakfast (16118)
9.00 Schools: The English Programme (T) (3545719) **9.25** Schools at Work (8182828) **9.30** Geography Junction (T) (9068422) **9.45** Book Box (T) (9063977) **10.00** Stage Two Science (T) (8782809) **10.15** Rat-a-Tat-Tat (8798460) **10.30** Place and People (T) (6359977) **10.50** Stop, Look, Listen (T) (2154809) **1.00** The Score (T) (9840002) **11.15** The Mix (T) (9830625)
11.30 Springhill Drama serial about a family living on a housing estate (r) (T) (3977) **12.00** Sesame Street (84034)
12.30pm Light Lunch The guests are the former *Blue Peter* presenters John Noakes, Lesley Judd and Valerie Singleton (39151)
1.30 Mother Wore Tights (1947) A musical *about the life and times of a vaudevillian* couple, Betty Grable and Dan Dailey. *Directed by Walter Lang* (T) (36606)
3.30 Collectors' Lot Mementoes from the Pears soap advertising campaign and a collection of marbles (T) (809)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (644) **4.30** Countdown (T) (5035606) **4.55** Montel Williams. With hypnotist Paul McKenna (T) (6133996) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (880) **6.00** The Monkees. Adventures of the pop group (793)
6.30 Hollyoaks (T) (373)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (341606)
7.55 Litpop John Hegley performs his *Café Poems* (T) (844847)



Intrepid Arctic crossing (8.00pm)

8.00 To the Ends of the Earth: Arctic Journey Following Dr *Steve Martin and Dave Michael's attempt* to be the first to journey across Siberia to Canada without a back-up team (2/12) (T) (8151)
9.00 The War Machine: The Minehunter The last in the series about the work of the Defence Research and Evaluation Agency looks at the development of a mini-submarine, which is able to detect and destroy sea mines within a metre of enemy beaches (3/3) (T) (8915)
10.00 Michael Hayes: Death and Taxes American crime drama series starring David Caruso. Michael searches for an informant who can help to crack a brutal Russian crime organisation (T) (562373)
10.55 In Exile Last in the comedy series about a desposed African dictator living in St John's Wood. Mukata is kidnapped by the new President in order to *explain the* whereabouts of the missing annual *budget* (T) (292034)
11.25 Fortean TV (r) (T) (598118)
12.00 For the Love Of A discussion on alien abduction (3/8) (95584)
1.00am Trans World Sport (r) (88855)
2.00 Football Italia (r) (63107)
4.00 Schools: History in Action (T) (90132)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am 5 News Early (8481460)
7.00 WideWorld: *Home Grown* Homes with built-in defences (T) (5664644)
7.30 Milkshake! (6425441) ***7.35*** Wimzie's House (r) (4902644) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) (1644248) **8.30** Dappledown Farm (r) (1676847)
9.00 Espresso (5067083) ***10.00*** *Wildlife SOS (r) (T)* (2871462) **10.30** Sunset Beach (T) (2231335) ***11.20*** *Leeza* (8541101)
12.00 5 News (T) (1647335) **12.30pm** Family *Affairs (r) (T)* (6508083) **1.00** *The Bold and the Beautiful* (T) (5663915) **1.30** *Sons and Daughters* (6507354) **2.00** *Beauty and the Beast* (1421921) **3.00** 100 Per Cent Gold (3491278)



Fredric March stars (3.30pm)

3.30 *A Star is Born* *(1937)* with Fredric March, Janet Gaynor and Adolphe Menjou. *Drama about an actor whose career is* fading as his wife's is taking off. Directed by William Wellman (3414880)
5.30 Fame and Fortune The lifestyle of the *actress Jane Seymour (r) (T)* (7590847)
6.00 100 Per Cent (7580460)
6.30 Family Affairs It is the end of the road for Nick and his caravan (T) (7571712)
7.00 5 News (T) (8346129)
7.30 Against the Odds: Short Cool Summer Wildlife documentary about the animals that inhabit North America's Rocky Mountains (T) (7577996)
8.00 The Great House Game Eric Knowles hosts the antique challenge from Ripley Castle where Lady Ingilby challenges the teams to reupholster two antique chairs (T) (2041737)
8.30 HouseBusters Russell Grant and his team help a woman with a lack of direction in her life (T) (7891034)
9.00 Next of Kin (1989) with Patrick Swayze, Liam Neeson and Adam Baldwin. Drama about a man who decides to avenge his brother's death by *taking on his Mafia* killer. Directed by John Irvin (8872170)
11.00 Dr Fox's Chart Update (5791354)
11.05 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy (4168606)
11.50 Live and Dangerous Sports magazine with Dominik Diamond and Shelley Webb including at **1.00** Day five of the 1998 *Winter Extreme Games in Crested Butte* (32005151)
3.45am Asian Football Show (7642671)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (5795652)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (5942720)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● *For further listings see Saturday's Vision*

SKY 1

7.00am Street Sharks (24538) **7.30** Games World (7504844) **7.45** The Simpsons (31606) **8.15** Oprah Winfrey (8344286) **9.00** *Hotel* (84606) **10.00** Another World (42557) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (22793) **12.00** Married with Children (33248) **12.30pm** *MASH* (92489) ***1.00*** *Geraldo* (80644) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (29118) **3.00** Jenny Jones (90557) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (79064) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (4686) **6.00** The Live 6 Show (5489) **6.30** Married with Children (9441) **7.00** The Simpsons (1557) **7.30** Real TV (5625) **8.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (21915) **9.00** Sliders (52921) **10.00** *Chicago Hope* (11538) **11.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (43286) **12.00** Late Show (15316) **1.00am** Raven (19749) **2.00** Long Play (1780107)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. *To view any film telephone 0990 800888.* Each film costs £2.99 per viewing

SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26) **Michael (1996)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **Jerry Maguire (1996)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Matilda (1996)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) ***Mars Attacks! (1996)***

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.00am Shadow Makers (1989) (314422) **8.30 Volcano: Fire on the Mountain (1995)** (97977) ***10.30 Born Free: A New Adventure (1996)*** (38480) **12.30pm Shadow Makers (1989)** (105129) **3.00 Panic in the Sties! (1996)** (34847) **5.00 Born Free: A New Adventure (1996)** (49809) **7.00 Volcano: *Fire on the Mountain*** (1996) (83625) **9.00 Apollo 13 (1995)** (58600064) **11.20 Unlikely Suspects** (1996) (625441) **12.50am Suite 16 (1995)** (655497) **2.40 Harper (1966)** (999835) **4.40 The Toy (1982)** (73648294)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

5.20am The Judge Steps Out (1949) (21065422) **8.00 Salt Water Moose (1996)** (71052) **10.00 Foreign Correspondent (1940)** (94847) **12.00 The Angel of *Pennsylvania Avenue*** **(1997)** (91335) **2.00pm Five Graves to Cairo (1943)** (26480) **4.00 Stage Fright (1950)** (17087809) ***5.50 Salt Water Moose (1996)*** (73412915) **8.00 *Heart of Fire* (1998)** (18441) **10.00 Screamers (1996)** (331373) **11.50 Bad Boys (1995)** (197278) **1.50am Dead Weekend (1995)** (8206823) **3.15 *Eve of Destruction* (1990)** (82845923)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm That's My Boy (1951) (3050731) **6.00 The Long Ships (1964)** (5526847) ***8.00 Rich Kids (1979)*** (5598064) **10.00 New Jack City (1991)** (4998373) **11.40 Flesh and Blood (1985)** (26092460) **1.45am Badge of the Assassin (1985)** (6868478) **3.20 The Long Ships (1964)** (31004478) **5.25** Close

TNT

9.00pm The Liquidator (1966) (38154625) **11.00 Murder Most Foul *(1964)*** *(53381731)* ***1.00am A Very Private Affair (1962)*** (53276855) **3.00 The Liquidator (1966)** (46898316) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Spanish Football (70354) **9.00** Racing (88809) **9.30** Aerobics (16170) ***10.00*** FA Cup (24986) **11.30** Rebel Sports (29083) **12.00** Aerobics (91373) **12.30pm** Futbol Mundial (27286) **1.00** FA Cup (32287) **2.30** International Women's Football (54286) **3.30** Basketball (717460) **5.00** *Sports Centre* (2793) ***5.30*** *League Review* (6373) **7.00** Live Scottish Cup: Rangers v Dundee (225191) **10.00** Sports Centre (92002) **10.30** Pool (98286) **11.30** Rebel TV (57815) **12.00** Scottish Cup Football (71342) **2.00am** *Sports Centre* (76687) **2.30** League Review (82294) **3.00** Sports Centre (86881) **3.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics (5074064) **7.30** Rebel Sports (5093199) **8.00** Racing (8233170) ***8.30*** *US Golf: Doral Ryder Open* (4047828) **10.30** Watersports World (6973608) **11.30** NHL (1821199) **1.30pm** Boxing (6190847) **3.30** US Golf: Doral Ryder Open (4840357) **5.30** Football League Review (6872248) **6.00** *Rebel Sports* (8802489) **6.30** V-Max (8866441) **7.00** Sports Centre (2825593) **7.30** International Cricket (8958083) **10.30** V-Max (9220606) **11.00** Football League Review (6892977) **11.30** International Bowls (2972335) **1.30am** *Sports Centre* (6506768) **2.00** International Cricket (1212861) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm *European PGA Golf: Qatar Masters* (38800847) **2.00** Worldwide Rugby (38165731) **4.00** NHL Ice Hockey (97519977) **6.00** International Rugby Union (22517441) **7.00** Fish TV (38144248) **8.00** International Bowls (38157712) **10.00** Super League Classics (92663460) **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

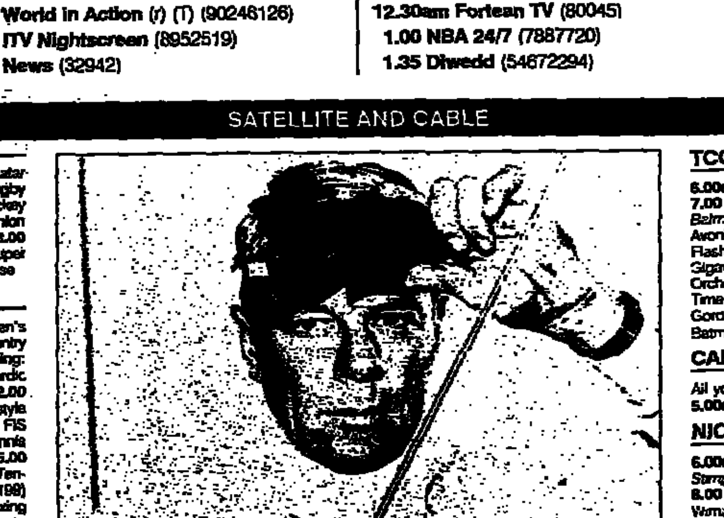
7.30am Sailing (88373) **8.00** Skiing: Men's World Cup (83064) **9.00** Cross-Country Skiing: World Cup (28606) **10.00** Skiing: Women's World Cup (84557) **11.00** Nordic *Combined Skiing: World Cup* (84793) **12.00** Snowboarding (86441) **12.30pm** Freestyle Skiing (12354) **1.00** Freestyle Skiing: FIS World Cup — Live (17809) **2.00** Tennis (68460) **4.00** Ski-jumping (37002) **5.00** Athletics: IAAF Meeting (2828) **6.00** Tennis — Mercedes Super 9 — Live (3385199) **10.00** Eurogoals (20422) **11.30** Boxing (58441) **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Worzel Gummidge Down Under (2994083) **7.25** Neighbours (1044977) **8.00** Crossroads (3369606) **8.25** EastEnders (2860828) **9.00** The Bill (9269977) **9.30** Howards' Way (1391712) **10.00** Home to Roost (6011996) **10.30** The Sullivans (3298489) **11.00** Casualty (5737847) **12.00** Crossroads (83462625) **12.25pm** Neighbours (63466712) **12.55** EastEnders (1882793) **1.30** Sykes (8238809) **2.05** Open All Hours (5459489) **2.45** Stay Lucky (9098809) **3.45** The Bill (3225151) **4.15** Juliet Bravo (81392793) **5.20** EastEnders (2115151) **5.55** Big Break (4384460) **6.30** *The Bill* (4013557) **7.00** Dad's Army (8817170) **7.40** Canned Carrott (1449101) **8.20** Blackadder II (8685441) **9.00** Dangerfield (72377489) **10.05** Taggert (65564880) **11.10** The Man from Auntie (9440880) **11.50** Paul Merton: The Series (8673737) **12.25am** Between the Lines (7332045) **1.20** Spitting Image (5738126) **1.50** The Equalizer (9059229) **2.35** Shopping (21445565)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am *The Box* (1954151) **7.00** *O and E!* (3330422) **7.30** Coronation St (3358557) **8.00** Blind Date (7613606) **9.00** Within These Walls (5198731) **10.00** Hart to Hart (3348441) **11.00** Hawaii Five-O (3335977) **12.00** Coronation St (4042828) **12.30pm** Families (7192880) **1.00** Watching (3339793) **1.30** Me and My Girl (7191151) **2.00** Thomas and Sarah (5918486) **3.00** *London's Burning* (6578441) **4.00** Hawaii Five-O (6664248) **5.00** Mission Impossible (9435267) **6.00** Families (5363002) **6.30** Coronation St (5354354) **7.00** Doctor at Large (9436886) **7.30** Bootsie and Snudge (5350538) **8.00** London's Burning (5732422) **9.00** Coronation St (6685480) **9.30** Stand-Up (7112644) **10.00** Mission Impossible (5755373) **11.00** Granada Men and Motors (2895422)



Peter Graves in *Mission: Impossible* (Granada Plus, 5pm and 10pm)

CARLTON SELECT (CABLE)

5.00pm Blockbusters (97525538) **5.30** Hey Dad II (25491809) **6.00** Byker Grove (25481422) **6.30** A Country Practice (25405002) **7.00** London Bridge (97538002) **7.30** Pull the Other One (25401285) **8.00** Birds of a Feather (97514422) **8.30** Stuck on You (97533557) **9.00** Chancer (38148064) **10.00** Soldier, Soldier (38141151) **11.00** *St Elsewhere* (40810809) **12.00** Pull the Other One (82558584) **12.30am** Tales of the Unexpected (82242381) **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree **6.30** Jungle Cubs **7.00** Recess **7.30** Pepper Ann **8.00** Brand Spanking New Doug **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa **9.00** Aladdin: The Series **9.30** Quack Pack **10.00** Amazing Animals **10.30** Sesame Street **11.30** Winnie the Pooh **11.45** Alphabet Castle **12.00** Little Hippo ***12.15pm*** *Animal Shelf* ***12.30*** *Rosie and Jim* **12.45** The Toothbrush Family **12.50** Bear in the Big Blue House **1.15** Winnie the Pooh **1.30** Chip 'n' Dale **2.00** Goof Troop **2.30** Jungle Cubs **3.00** Timon and Pumbaa **3.30** *Brand Spanking New* Doug **4.00** Pepper Ann **4.30** Recess **5.00** *Smart Guy* **5.30** Student Bodies **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** FILM: Bad Baby (1997) **8.30** The Wonder Years **9.00** Touched by an Angel **10.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Zeo **6.25** Crazy Crow **6.30** Power Rangers Zeo **7.00** X Men **7.35** Mortal Kombat **8.00** Goosebumps **8.35** Masked Rider **9.00** The Magic Box **9.30** Dudley the Dragon **10.00** Pinocchio **10.30** Peter Pan **11.00** Oliver Twist **11.30** Huckleberry Finn **12.00** *Gulliver's Travels* **12.30pm** X Men **1.00** Spiderman **1.30** Iron Man **2.00** Fantastic Four **2.25** Adventures of Dodo **2.30** Power Rangers Zeo **3.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs **3.30** Masked Rider **4.00** Life With Louie **4.25** *Life With Louie* **5.00** Goosebumps **5.30** X Men **6.00** Spiderman **6.30** The Tick **7.00** Close

TCC

6.00am Big Dish **6.30** Oscar's Orchestra **7.00** Sparou **7.30** Dennis the Menace **8.00** *Batman* ***8.30*** *Spellbinder II* ***9.00*** *Road to* Avonlea **10.00** AJ's Time Travellers **10.30** Flash Gordon **11.00** Iznogoud **11.30** *Gigantor* **12.00** Sparou **12.30pm** Oscar's Orchestra **1.00** Spellbinder II **1.30** AJ's Time Travellers **2.00** Iznogoud **2.30** Flash Gordon **3.00** Gigantor **3.30** Big Dish **4.00** Batman **4.30** Dennis the Menace

CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from **5.00am** to **9.00pm**, seven days a week.

NICKELODEON

6.00am Count Duckula **6.30** Ren and *Stimpy* ***7.00*** *Angry Beavers* ***7.30*** *Rugrats* **8.00** Doug **8.30** Arthur **9.00** CBBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** Magic School Bus ***11.30*** *PB Bear etc* **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blues Clues **1.00** Clangers **1.30** Muppet Babies **2.00** Fraggle Rock **2.30** Alvin and the Chipmunks **3.00** Jumanji **3.30** Doug **4.00** Hey Arnold! **4.30** Captain *Star* ***5.00*** *Rugrats* ***5.30*** *Sister Sister* **6.00** Renford Rejects **6.30** Kenan and Kel

TROUBLE

12.00 Swan's Crossing **12.30pm** Sweat **1.00** Echo Point **1.30** Heartbreak High **2.00** Saved by the Bell **2.30** Swan's Crossing ***3.00*** *It's in the Jeans* ***3.15*** *On the Make* **3.30** Heartbreak High **4.00** Hollyoaks **4.30** Saved by the Bell **5.00** USA High **5.30** Sweat **6.00** Echo Point **6.30** Bangs **6.45** Rush **7.00** USA High **7.30** Hollyoaks

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Fifteen-to-One **5.50** Family Fortunes **6.30** Catchphrase **7.05** Blockbusters **7.30** Give Us a Clue **8.00** All Clued Up **8.30** Whittle **9.15** *Sale of the Century* **10.00** Treasure Hunt **11.15** 3-2-1 **12.30am** *Moonlighting* **1.30** Fall Guy **2.30** Boogies Diner **3.00** Snowy River: The McGregor Saga **3.50** Jeux sans Frontieres **5.00** Screenshop

BRAVO

8.00pm *A-Team* (6858335) ***9.00*** *Tour of* Duty (6878199) **10.00** Basement (3275539) **10.30** Red Shoe Diaries (3284286) **11.00** FILM: **Spookies** (1987) (3686441) **1.00am** Basement (7619229) **1.30** Tour of *Duty* (2088478) **2.30** FILM: **Expose (1975)** (3087749) **4.30** Red Shoes Diaries (7527294) **5.00** A-Team (4340519)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm *Grace Under Fire* (9731) **7.30** Roseanne (5129) **8.00** Cybill (5151) **8.30** *Caroline in the City* (4286) **9.00** Cheers (39460) **9.30** Ellen (99444) **10.00** Frasier (90644) **10.30** Duckman (76064) **11.00** Still in Bed with McDinner (18977) **11.30** Grace Under Fire (55557) **12.00** Ellen (17671) **12.30am** Nurses (79923) **1.00** Cheers (70869) **1.30** Roseanne (11687) **2.00** Caroline in the City (74229) **2.30** Still in Bed *with McDinner* (80836) **3.00** Frasier (86403) **3.30** Duckman (77316) **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Quantum Leap (9238828) **9.00** The *Cape* (9218064) **10.00** FILM: **Bombshell (1996)** (1359199) **12.00** Sightings (1216671) **1.00am** The Tomorrow People (1304519) **1.30** Flash Gordon, Space Soldiers (9609671) **2.00** Friday the 13th (5417861) **3.00** Tales of the Unexpected (1211865) **3.30** Dark Shadows (5197671)

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am The Joy of Painting **9.30** Gardeners' Diary **10.00** The Great Gardening Plot **10.30** Tool Time **11.00** Go Fishing **11.30** Hometime **12.00** Driving Passions ***12.30pm*** *This Old House* ***1.00*** *Yan Can* Cook **1.30** The All New Yankee Workshop **2.00** Home Again with Bob Vila **2.30** These Four Walls **3.00** Two's Country **3.30** This Old House **4.00** Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (4003170) **4.30** Disaster (4009354) **5.00** Wheel Nuts (5780557) **5.30** Terra X (4090606) **6.00** Alaska's Grizzlies (1318489) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (5885101) **7.30** History's Turning Points (4000083) **8.00** Time Travellers (3885921) **8.30** Wonders of Weather (3939646) **9.00** Lonely Planet (6874373) **10.00** Super Structures (6877460) **11.00** Weapons of War: Scorched Earth (5716354) **12.00** The Specialists (8556584) **1.00am** History's Turning Points (7615403) **1.30** Beyond 2000 (3573923) **2.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Vietnam's Great Apes (9485538) **7.30** Lifeboat: Friendly Rivals (9234880) **8.00** Alyeska: Arctic Wilderness (9157354) **9.00** Children of the Sun (9177118) **10.00** *Extreme Earth*: Icebound (9147977) **11.00** Ocean Worlds (9090828) **12.00** The Price of Peace (2436584) **1.00am** Close

TRAVEL (CABLE)

12.00pm On Top Of The World **1.00** Wet & Wild **1.30** Food Lover's Guide To Australia **2.00** Tread The Med **2.30** On Tour **3.00** Destinations **4.00** Ridge Riders **4.30** Champagne Charlie **5.00** Wet & Wild **5.30** *Ribbons Of Steel* ***6.00*** *Food Lover's Guide* To Australia **6.30** Tread The Med **7.00** Travel Live **8.00** American Postcards **8.30** Flavours Of France **9.00** Going Places **10.00** On Tour **10.30** Champagne Charlie **11.00** Destinations

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Stalin (8691248) **5.00** American Revolution (3075034) **6.00** Ancient Mysteries (3627915) **7.00** Biography (6847489)

CARLTON FOOD (CABLE)

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Food for Thought **10.00** Dilly Dines Out **10.30** What's Cooking? **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** Graham Kerr **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** First Taste **1.00** Food for *Thought* ***1.30*** *For Better, for Worse* **2.00** Seasonal Kitchen **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Retrospectives **3.30** Worrall Thompson Cooks **4.00** Foreign Assignment **4.30** Graham Kerr **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living **9.00** Ready, Steady, Cook **9.35** Hart to Hart **10.30** The Young and the Restless **11.20** Brookside **11.50** *Jimmy's* ***12.20pm*** *Diet Show* **12.50** Animal Rescue **1.25** Adrenalin Junkies **2.20** Living It Up! **3.20** Jerry Springer **4.10** Tempestt **5.00** The Heat Is On **5.30** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.10** Jerry Springer **7.00** Rescue 911 **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **8.00** Murder Call **9.00** FILM: **Pleasures** **11.00** The Sex Files II **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

6.30am Punjabi Folk **7.00** Jaagran **7.30** Ru Ba Ru **8.00** News **8.30** Aahsa **9.00** FILM **11.30** Daraar **12.00** FILM **3.00pm** Margarita **3.30** Parampara **4.00** Hum Paanch **4.30** Ikka Pe Ikka **5.00** Pop Korn **5.30** Your Zindagi **6.00** Banegi Apni Baat **6.30** Mast Must Show **7.00** Chutki Raja Ke **7.30** It's My Choice **8.00** News **8.30** Sailaab **9.00** FILM

MTV

The 24 hour music channel

VH-1

The video hits channel



BEST POLICY 50
Roger Bootle on funding the welfare state

BUSINESS

FAT CHANCE 50
Big is proving better for business expansion



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY MARCH 9 1998

Tax help for firms fighting 2000 'bug'

By Paul Durman

THE Government appears set to provide tax relief against the cost companies face in preparing their computers to deal with the millennium bug.

Lord Cope of Berkeley released correspondence with the Treasury, that, he said, showed officials were preparing to treat some software expenditure as an allowable expense against income. This will not only make 31 per cent tax relief available but will provide the help quickly; income reliefs, unlike, capital reliefs, are claimable as incurred.

The move reflects the growing concern in government that many British businesses have still to act in order to ensure their computers will be able to cope with the change of year in 2000.

According to a letter last month from Emma Lindsell, an assistant private secretary at the Treasury, the issue is to be clarified in the April edition of the Inland Revenue's *Tax Bulletin*. A draft of the article says: "We would normally expect expenditure on off-the-shelf software designed specifically to solve the year 2000 problem to be revenue."

☐ Wage warning: company pay deals struck in January were substantially higher than they were a year earlier, according to the latest analysis from Incomes Data Services. IDS also warned that February and March are likely to see some high profit-sharing bonuses that may boost average earnings growth in the first quarter.

In January 1997, 34 per cent of deals were at 3 per cent, with another 21 per cent between 3.1 per cent and 3.5 per cent. This January, the highest proportion — 29 per cent — were above 4 per cent, with 23 per cent at 4 per cent.



Jon Foulds, left, and Mike Blackburn, Halifax chief executive, are happy to offer a bigger windfall to Birmingham Midshires members

Halifax bids £800m for Birmingham Midshires

By Marianne Curphey

HALIFAX last night launched a surprise £800 million bid for Birmingham Midshires, saying it was prepared to pay up to 25 per cent more than the society's current suitor, Royal Bank of Scotland.

Halifax confirmed that Jon Foulds, its chairman, had made a personal approach to John Leighfield, chairman of Birmingham Midshires, late last week.

The move puts enormous pressure on the board of Birmingham Midshires to switch its recommendation to members from RBS to Halifax. A transfer document recommending the RBS offer was due to be sent to members next month and to be voted on in June. The new offer would mean an average £150 extra for each of Birmingham Midshires' 1.24 million members, bringing their total windfall to almost £650 each.

However, Mike Jackson, chief executive of Birmingham Midshires, said yesterday that there were "no circumstances" under which he would enter discussions with Halifax.

He said: "We have an agreement with RBS and we cannot under the terms of the agreement hold discussions with a third party."

Halifax responded by saying: "The two chairmen have had discussions and we hope to take the matter further on a friendly basis." A spokesman said it was unlikely that Halifax would launch a hostile bid.

RBS struck its deal with Birmingham Midshires last summer. Howard Moody, director of corporate affairs at RBS, said yesterday that there were no plans to increase its £630 million offer. RBS had pledged to keep staff and branches and to retain the Birmingham Midshires brand, he said.

"This is not just about price. This was a hard deal to do with Birmingham Midshires and when we first started going through the details the offer had a figure five in front of it not a six [hundred million]. The three-year guarantee that we have made to staff about jobs is a minimum."

The recent sharp rise in retail banking shares has been driving up the price of converted building societies, including Halifax itself, Alliance & Leicester and Northern Rock. As a consequence, members of Birmingham Midshires have complained that the proposed price is too low. Analysts have suggested that an updated valuation on Birmingham Midshires would be between £750 million and £1 billion.

Halifax said yesterday that it was prepared to pay "between 20 per cent and 25 per cent more than RBS are offering" because it believed that the society would make a "good strategic fit" and Halifax was keen to increase its share of mortgage lending.

A spokesman said: "No formal proposals have yet been put to the board of Birmingham Midshires. We believe the existing RBS offer undervalues Birmingham Midshires. Our approach would be a significantly better deal for their members and we find it hard to believe that the board would not recommend it."

The spokesman said Halifax would ensure that there was no extra delay for members waiting for their windfalls, which are expected to be paid in September.



Jackson: "no" to talks

Insurers plan rescue for firms facing mis-selling ruin

By Marianne Curphey, Insurance correspondent

BRITAIN'S biggest life insurers meet today to hammer out a rescue package for thousands of small independent financial advisers (IFAs) who are close to ruin because of the cost of the pensions mis-selling review.

Insurers including Standard Life, Prudential, Norwich Union, Britannia, Legal & General and Clerical Medical, all of whom rely heavily on sales through IFAs, have said they are prepared in principle to offer financial help to save the advisers from bankruptcy. The sum needed is understood to run into tens of millions of pounds.

Coopers & Lybrand completed a report on the problem late last week and this will be presented to the meeting which is being co-ordinated by the Association of British Insurers.

The Association says it would be a heavy blow to the industry if thousands of small IFA firms were to collapse because they could not cope with the paperwork and potential compensation claims.

Clients of firms which go bust would be entitled to compensation for mis-selling from the Investors Compensation Scheme, which is funded by industry levies, but insurers would be unhappy if a large number of firms were to go out of business.

The 10,000 clients of firms which have already collapsed are likely to require ICS compensation totalling £100 million. Last autumn the watchdog body the Securities and Investments Board pressed for the total annual compensation which the ICS was able to pay to be doubled to £200 million.

An estimated 1 million people were persuaded to leave their employers' pension schemes in the 1980s and switch into personal pensions which often had higher charges and did not provide comparable retirement benefits.

The average payout for priority cases is £8,000 per person, but 18,000 people have died while waiting for the review of their personal pension to be completed. There could be a further 1.5 million non-priority cases which have yet to be addressed.

Garry Heath, chief executive of the IFA Association, said: "I believe the life insurers will provide very significant help on this matter. However, much of the cost should have been funded by the Government because it was the prime mover in persuading people to make a decision that they should not have made."

Tony Baker, deputy director-general of the ABI, said: "This is a very sensitive issue and we are working with the Treasury and the FSA. Although it is not the responsibility of the insurers to solve this problem, our members have agreed in principle to the concept."

This week in THE TIMES



■ **Tomorrow**
Alasdair Murray, above, on the business of politics

■ **Wednesday**
Our look ahead to the Budget and what it means for you

■ **Thursday**
Chris Ayres looks at digital finger printing in The Ice Box

■ **Friday**
Anatole Kaletsky gives his view on the economy

GTech fights to save lottery role

By Marianne Curphey

GTECH, the controversial company that provides the technology to run the National Lottery, will today continue its fight to hang on to its contract, arguing that it is "fit and proper" in a submission to Oflot, the lottery regulator.

GTech executives will today present the paper to John Stoker, the acting director-general of Oflot. Mr Stoker is investigating GTech after the libel case brought by Richard Branson, the Virgin entrepreneur, against Guy Snowden, the former head of GTech. A jury found that Mr Snowden had tried to offer Mr Branson a bribe in 1993 to stop him bidding to run the National Lottery.

A decision by Mr Stoker on GTech is expected this month.

GTech holds a 22.5 per cent stake in the Camelot consortium, which operates the lottery, and it is a key supplier to the lottery.

Camelot described as "speculation" reports that the National Lottery might be halted if GTech, an American company involved in lotteries throughout the world, withdrew as a shareholder and supplier.

One report at the weekend suggested that, should GTech be ejected from the Camelot consortium, Camelot would put into place a contingency plan to buy in GTech's stake for between £50 million and £100 million.



Snowden: court case

Emerson's advisers feel the heat

By Martin Barrow

THE battle over Astec (BSR), seen as a test case for the rights of minority shareholders, is causing difficulties for Cazenove and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, two of the City's most prestigious firms.

Cazenove and DMG are, respectively, the stockbroker and the investment bank advising Emerson Electric, the US corporation that has angered British investors by making a poor offer to buy in the 49 per cent of Astec that it does not already own. In a highly unusual move that recognises the wider ramifications, the British are taking Emerson to court on the issue.

Emerson is expected to use its majority stake at a meeting of Astec shareholders today to force the removal of a number of Astec directors.

Investors fear that if Emerson wins with its low offer, the value of shares in other companies with majority shareholders will be diminished.

Full report, page 47

Price of Pace set to quicken

By Chris Ayres

SHARES in Pace Micro Technology are expected to continue their recovery today, when the troubled company confirms that it has been awarded a contract to manufacture set-top boxes for British Digital Broadcasting.

Pace is one of six companies awarded contracts by BDB, the joint venture between Carlton Communications and Granada. The others are Grundig, Philips, Nokia, Sony and Toshiba. BDB's set-top boxes, *expected in the shops by* Christmas priced about £200, will allow viewers to receive about 30 channels using their existing TV aerials.

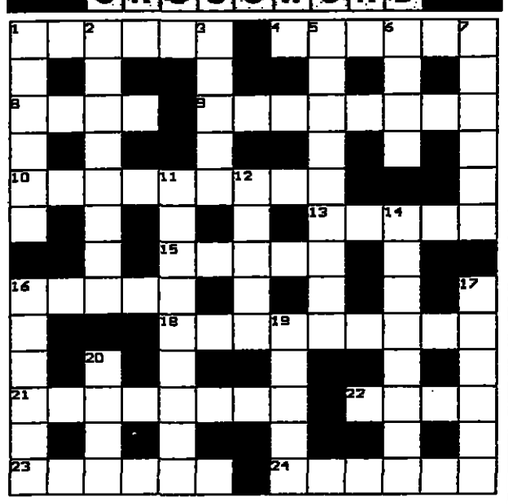
Shares in Pace, which closed up 1½p at 39½p on Friday, have suffered a steep decline since a much-hyped flotation in June 1996, their price falling from 247½p to 25½p. It has already won a contract to provide set-top boxes for BSkyB, the satellite operator that is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*.

However, Pace has been hit by a series of profits warnings and a management upheaval.

Further turmoil has been created by BSkyB, which recently said that the summer launch of its digital satellite service would be "modest", with the full launch coming in the final quarter of this year.

Pace expected digital TV to be on schedule, but said: "The market for digital TV and the growth predicted by companies and analysts has taken longer to build up than was expected."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1348

ACROSS
1 Pointless (6)
4 Language of Koran (6)
8 Adolescent spots (4)
9 Charity worker (*derog.*) (2-6)
10 Surprise assignation (5,4)
13 Spa. Pétain HQ (5)
15 Tree, Canada symbol (5)
16 Soft mixture; imitation jewels (5)
18 Based on random choice (9)
21 Murderer?: *Noose - RIP* (*anag.*) (8)
22 Complain generally (4)
23 Furthest planet ancients knew (6)
24 Intercept and detain (6)

DOWN
1 With fat, loose flesh (6)
2 Ringing in the ears (8)
3 Over: Prospero's *revels now are* (5)
5 *New Deal* President (9)
6 Portend (4)
7 Large bottle in frame (6)
11 Personal appearance, conduct (9)
12 Fruit; New York the *big* one (5)
14 Carbon for fuel, crayon (8)
16 S. Am. plains grass (6)
17 Meagre, inadequate (6)
19 Feathered shaft (5)
20 Sword handle (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1347
ACROSS: 1 Habitat 5 Boots 8 Reign 9 Equable 10 Life-and-death 12 Secede 14 Kepler 17 Take to pieces 21 Hatchet 22 Admin 23 Marks 24 Spencer
DOWN: 1 Harmless 2 Brief 3 Tankard 4 Trendy 5 Bruce 6 Orbital 7 Suez 11 Prisoner 13 Chapter 15 Emirate 16 Foetus 18 Ethos 19 Comic 20 Sham

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